

00:00:00	Elliott	Host	Hi, everybody. My name's Elliott Kalan, <i>The Flop House</i> podcast on the MaxFun network. I just wanna let you know that we had kind of a bad internet connection at the very beginning of the recording of this episode. And it <u>will</u> improve? So please bear with it. Thanks to the magic of futuristic 21st century technology and the amazing skills of our editor, Jordan Kauwling, it <u>will</u> improve. So please bear with us and you'll know when you get to the point where it's fixed because it sounds better. Thank you very much! Enjoy the show!
00:00:29	Dan	Host	On this episode we discuss— <i>The New Mutants</i> !
00:00:35	Elliott	Host	Mm. They still got that new mutant smell. Love it.
00:00:37	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
00:01:04	Dan	Host	Hey, everyone, and welcome to <i>The Flop House</i> ! I'm Dan McCoy.
00:01:06	Stuart	Host	Hey! I'm Stuart Wellington!
00:01:08	Elliott	Host	I'm Elliott Kalan.
00:01:11	Stuart	Host	And joining us we have a special guest this time—game director. Designer for Jackbox games and host of the hit podcast <i>Hello from the Magic Tavern</i> —it's Arnie Niekamp [ <i>pronounces it Nee-camp</i> ]. Niekamp? [ <i>Pronounces it Nye-camp</i> ] Niekamp! [ <i>pronounces it Nee-camp.</i> ]
00:01:26	Arnie	Guest	<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> Hey, it's Arnie Niekamp! [ <i>Pronounces it "Nee-camp."</i> ] That's alright. Everyone gets it wrong. It's one of those names where you either get it wrong or you don't have any certainty that you've got it right.
00:01:35	Stuart	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> I covered my bases. [ <i>Laughs.</i> ]
00:01:37	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> We've got Arnie Mein Kampf with us. Very excited about it. I think I got it wrong also.
00:01:42	Dan	Host	<b>Dan:</b> It's a very common—it's a—it's a common word, Stu.
00:01:46	Stuart	Host	It's where parents send their knees during the summer!
00:01:47	Elliott	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah. Now let's cut that off at the knees. That little bit. I'm sure it was gonna develop into something great.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			I just wanna remind listeners—before we go on—that we do have a live show coming up, Saturday, February 6 <sup>th</sup> , at 9PM Eastern/6PM Pacific. We're gonna be talking about the movie <i>Teen Wolf</i> , one of the most-requested movies for us to talk about. Again, that's Saturday, February 6 <sup>th</sup> , 9PM Eastern/6PM Pacific. And for tickets just go to <a href="http://www.TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com">www.TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com</a> . I'll be telling you more about the show later in this show. Let's get back to this hilarious Niekamp bit! So Dan—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:02:17	Dan	Host	What kind of activities do they have for knees at Knee Camp? No, no, no, no, no. I— [ <i>Laughs.</i> ] I wanted to keep it short 'cause it's perilously close to just making fun of someone's name, which I don't want it to. But I will say—
00:02:26	Elliott	Host	Wait—when did you start not wanting to do that?
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>

00:02:29 Dan Host I don't— I mean, I—I do a lot of name puns. I wouldn't call them like making fun of? But I feel like if we went further down this road it might turn into that.

00:02:39 Elliott Host Perhaps you don't remember the old etiquette rule, "Saying a pun is still making fun."

00:02:45 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* Uh-oh.

00:02:47 Arnie Guest As a kid, definitely people always said "Knee Camp" *[inaudible]*. And I'm realizing as an adult I think the reason people often think my name is "Niekamp" *[pronounces it Nye-camp]* is they're like, "Well it can't—well it can't be Knee-camp. Right?" Like—

00:03:01 Dan Host That would be absurd!

00:03:03 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]* What kind of a name would that be? As if Niekamp is any less of a—that there's some kind of abstract value to Niekamp that is greater than Knee-camp. Like...

00:03:15 Dan Host Names can't sound like words!

00:03:16 Elliott Host No! Impossible!

00:03:19 Stuart Host Yeah! And I mean, like, it's—do you think it's that people would think, like, no adult would ruin their child's life—

00:03:30 Dan Host —by naming them "Arnie Knee-camp."

00:03:31 Arnie Guest Oh wow.

00:04:07 Elliott Host That's very—that's a thing. And somehow I didn't even—like, I think I didn't discover how dumb that was for a lot of my life. Because as a child I was focused on how close to Ernie it was. The kids really latched onto that. *[Inaudible]* always call me Ernie. And then there was a long period of my life where everyone would assume it was every version close to Arnie—like, there are a lot of not common but just subtly more common names than Arnie? Like *[inaudible]* and Ernie and—yeah. So then yeah. So then I realized, yeah, "Arnie Niekamp" is horrible to say!

00:04:17 Dan Host Now why don't you just run 'em together and be Arniekamp? Just be like a one word—like a Madonna or a Cher or a... Prometheus. Just a one-word name. Y'know.

00:04:18 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*

00:04:22 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Prometheus.

00:04:25 Stuart Host They're icons! Icons! Cher, Madonna, and Prometheus!

00:04:30 Elliott Host I wanna stop talking about your name and actually start talking about your work. How does it feel—

00:04:40 Stuart Host I mean, Prometheus only had like the one hit, though. I don't think it's fair to put him in the same— *[Laughs.]*

00:04:41 Elliott Host Uh, fire is a big hit, Stu. And it's not fair to judge him against the records of recording artists who are not chained to a rock so that a vulture can rip their liver out every day.

00:04:44 Dan Host That's true.

00:05:01 Stuart Host It's gonna impede your work. But yeah. Let's talk about your work, Arnie.

00:05:01 Stuart Host I just wanted to ask, Arnie, how does it feel to know that the light and joy and saving that has come into people's lives through Jackbox games during this pandemic? 'Cause I know that I certainly have played more of them during this time and—

00:05:01 Stuart Host Yeah, Dan's a huge gamer now.

00:05:03 Dan Host I am! I've become a gamer. Except for the ones you like.

00:05:08 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Dan said he heard about this Gamergate and he wanted to go through it. So—

*[Dan protests vehemently.]*

00:05:15 Arnie Guest That's really attracted him. *[Laughs.]*  
Somehow stumbled on one of the things I would least ever wanna talk about.

00:05:18 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Oh, then let's actually talk about your work, then! Yeah, does it feel good to be like, "Yeah, now people have to play my games and they love them!"

00:05:25 Arnie Guest Yeah! It does! I've been working at Jackbox for like 15 years now? And there were definitely *[inaudible]* where it's not a given that it would stay *[inaudible]*? Y'know? And we sort of made seven, I guess, party packs now? Thirty-some games? And it's kind of incredible. It's kinda sorta slowly starting *[inaudible]* more and more people kind of aware of it over the last couple of years. And then yeah. It kind of exploded during the pandemic.

00:05:59 Stuart Host Now with that much time at Jackbox, do you think it's safe to say that you do know Jack?

*[Stuart laughs enthusiastically.]*

00:06:08 Dan Host Stuart.

00:06:10 Elliott Host And now watching Stuart cross that off from his pre-written jokes list. So yeah. You're saying Jack is kind of unknowable?

00:06:17 Dan Host Muscles—Stuart's cat just came and started like ramming its face into Stuart as if to say, like, "Is something wrong? That laughter—"

00:06:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** That was one—that was the closest I've seen to a cat trying to take the keys away from somebody. Yeah.

00:06:34 Elliott Host **Dan:** "Was that your cry of—"  
So you're saying you don't know Jack.

00:06:38 Arnie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I... I— *[Laughs.]* I used to—there were period where I really felt like *[inaudible]* Jack? But I'm always constantly reminded that it's a lifelong journey to know Jack.

00:06:50 Elliott Host Yeah. Well he's one of those one-word icons. Cher. Prometheus. Arniekamp. And Jack! Like, it's just— *[Laughs.]* Just heroes.

00:06:57 Dan Host Okay. Well that's enough nonsense. *[Laughs.]*

00:07:01 Stuart Host So Arnie, thanks so much for coming on the show! Uh, we've been wanting to have for a while. We love *Hello from the Magic Tavern*. I think Elliott and I have both been lucky enough to be guests on that program. And so it's great to have you on here. Now why did you say, "I wanna be on this show. *New Mutants*. That's the key to my enjoyment of *The Flop House*."

00:07:23 Arnie Guest *[Dan laughs.]*  
Uh, I—y'know? I will say first of all—I didn't just pull *New Mutants* out of the whole world of movie going on.

00:07:34 Stuart Host Uh-huh. Sure. Okay.

00:07:35	Arnie	Guest	It was definitely my favorite of the ones presented to me? And also I legitimately was looking for <i>[through laughter]</i> an excuse to watch this movie. Because <i>[inaudible]</i> I was kind of all onboard with the idea of it. It wasn't like an intense like... comic book reader? But I definitely went through a <i>New Mutants</i> phase. And the whole idea of a <i>New Mutants</i> comic movie, like, combined with horror? Seemed like <i>[inaudible]</i> to me. And then, y'know. A lot of things happened and then eventually it came out and I was less excited about seeing it.
00:08:14	Stuart	Host	"Eventually it came out," I feel like, is a truncated version of the troubled production history of this movie.
00:08:20	Elliott	Host	Well it seems like the movie had the kind of production history a normal movie has, just—yeah. Drawn out of a much longer period of time. And it's interesting when you watch the movie that you watch it and you're like, "Oh, this is—" not to jump ahead—"this is the movie that they had to keep going back and remaking? Like, this is—" <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:08:40	Dan	Host	I didn't wanna skip ahead to Final Judgments, but that was what I kept asking myself, too. 'Cause I'm like, there are movies—not that this is particularly great. We'll get to it. But there are movies far worse than this that they just toss on screen without thought. And like, with like advertising budgets and everything and I was like, what was it about <u>this</u> one that they're just like, "We gotta keep working on it."
00:09:04	Elliott	Host	My guess is that—so there is—I was reading up a little bit about this. And so this was... I think very much seen as like the—this was gonna be the way that Fox holds onto—or 20 <sup>th</sup> Century holds onto the <i>X-Men</i> license. That the last few <i>X-Men</i> movies were kinda running out of steam. Time for some <u>new</u> mutants, if you will. And then people who made it—
00:09:23	Dan	Host	I don't understand.
00:09:24	Elliott	Host	—wanted it to be a horror movie and the studio did not, and then the last <i>X-Men</i> movie—and it was supposed to tie more directly into <i>X-Men: Apocalypse</i> . And then <i>X-Men: Apocalypse</i> did not do well so they're like, "Take all the <i>X-Men: Apocalypse</i> stuff out!" And then they're like, "But we don't want it to be a horror movie!" And then the trailer for <i>It</i> came out, apparently, and the trailer was such a big hit that they're like, "Make it a horror movie again!" So it was really like—the studio was really chasing what they thought would be the hottest version of this movie and not—not letting the filmmakers just get to a regular tale of New Mutants running around a hospital being chased by silent hell monsters.
00:09:58	Arnie	Guest	Hot off of the <i>It</i> trailer, they were like, "Make it a trailer."
00:10:04	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[All laugh.]</i> <b>Dan:</b> "Could you cut, like... I don't know. 92 minutes out of this?"
00:10:08	Elliott	Host	<b>Elliott:</b> Well I kept—I kept reading— <i>[Laughs.]</i> I kept reading how the director would send the trailer to people and they'd be like, "You got it! You nailed it!" And it'd be like, "How can you tell from the trailer?" That Bill Sienkiewicz was like, "You did it. Based off the trailer." And it's—I dunno. But I say this having—I was on Twitter earlier today and saw the teaser for the <i>King Kong vs Godzilla</i> trailer, and it was like, man. How much preselling is the trailer gonna have to have? And then I watched the trailer and I was

like, “Oh, yeah, this is what I thought *King Kong vs Godzilla* would look like. It’s King Kong fighting Godzilla.”

00:10:37 Dan Host Now—

00:10:39 Stuart Host Directed by Adam Wingard! It’s crazy!

00:10:41 Elliott Host Mm-hm. Not—is he related to Jason Wyngarde, aka, Mastermind of the Hellfire Club in the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants? An X-Men character? I don’t know! Dan, what were you gonna say? A segue as good as that? I don’t think so! But say it!

00:10:53 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* Well no. I guess that is kind of a good segue ‘cause I was gonna ask two questions. Number one—

00:10:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** “What a new mutant?”

**Dan:** What is you guys’s—what’s sex?

00:11:01 Dan Host *[Elliott laughs.]*  
No, uh— *[Laughs.]* Number one, what is you guys’s history with the New Mutants, if any, and how do you think this would play to someone who has no association with the comic or the extended, like, Mutant-verse. Like, I will quickly say I know that I read the stories that this is based on? ‘Cause I read the Claremont/Sienkiewicz period of New Mutants? And I really liked those like spin-offs. That and *Excalibur*, I think, at the time I enjoyed almost more than *X-Men*. But I’d forgotten all of it. And I guess this stands alone, but I do think it would confuse people like why all this was happening. But anyway. You guys go. Elliott, you look like you have something to say.

00:11:53 Elliott Host Well I—so the thing is, my experience with the New Mutants in the comics has been a conflicted one. Because when I was growing up, the New Mutants was over, pretty much. And they had already transformed into the much cooler X-Force. Led by Cable.

00:12:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Boo! Boo!

00:12:07 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Absolutely. Yup.  
And instead of like Wolfsbane, the goody-two-shoes, you had Feral. And Cannonball was still in there. But, y’know, like, Shatterstar was in there with his double sword blades and his double ponytails. You got two of everything with Shatterstar. Even the word “shatter” and “star” kinda sound like the same word.

00:12:21 Dan Host Aren’t double ponytails pigtails? Is that—

00:12:23 Elliott Host No, ‘cause they both came out of the back in the same place. I dunno, dude. Anyway. But—so the New Mutants has always seemed to me like a—when I was growing up was like, “Oh, these are the dull characters that turned into the crazy teen hormone explosion that is X-Force?”

00:12:40 Stuart Host Yeah. The pouch delivery system.

00:12:43 Elliott Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. ‘Cause there’s nothing teens wanted more than guys covered in pouches! And they never open those pouches! Little tiny lines that don’t seem to indicate anything. Are they wrinkles? I don’t know! *[Laughs.]*

00:12:54 Elliott Host When I was 13, I loved that stuff. Give me more little lines. And looking back at those issues it is hilarious just how ridiculous the art—like, it’s un-look-at-able. But the—I’ve gone back and reread some of the *New Mutants* ones from that run and they’re good books but they just kind of like don’t... I don’t know what it is. They don’t grab me the way that like Claremont’s *Uncanny X-Men* run or his *Excalibur* run or—I mean, *Excalibur*, it’s—Alan Davis is the

secret weapon on that title. But the—so watching this movie I was like, “Oh, yeah, this character—” Like, Dani Moonstar is a character I’ve never felt much connection to.

[Dan laughs.]

Dan, obviously you do.

00:13:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** ‘Cause it’s the same name. But—no! And watching the movie—the weird thing is—

**Dan:** And this movie will not change that. [Laughs.] We were like watching it like, “Oh, they made the least engaging one of these people the central character!” But we’ll talk about it for sure.

00:13:37 Elliott Host Watching it, it did feel like, “Oh, if I didn’t know the *X-Men* movies, I’d be really lost in this.” But it also—yeah. I’ve had no—I wouldn’t have a connection to it. But I do know the *X-Men* movies! So when Dr. Cecilia Reyes shows up I’m like, “Wait a minute! That’s not the way that character’s portrayed in the comic books!” Stu? What are your feelings?

00:13:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** [Inaudible] New Mutants?

**Stuart:** Yeah, I worked my way backwards through the *New Mutants*—

00:13:57 Stuart Host —starting with *X-Force*. And I remember really liking some of the stuff when they would—y’know, the crossovers with the X-Men. The annuals where they would go to Asgard. When Dani Moonstar becomes one of the Valkyries, I thought that stuff was all great and also it had art by Art Adams, which is great. And I always had a huge crush growing up I had a huge crush on Magik ‘cause she’s awesome and like a weird brat, sword-slinging, dimension-hopping monster. And I don’t know! I don’t know if that character was totally translated to the movies. But whatever.

00:14:32 Dan Host No. I mean, that’s one of the reasons I liked *New Mutants*, too, ‘cause I remember reading the *Magik* limited series, which kinda catapulted me into that.

00:14:41 Elliott Host Hello! Hi! This is Elliott Kalan, interrupting this show. I know. What else is new? Anyway, I’m talking to you from the future compared to what you were just listening to, but the past compared to where you are right now, listening. You might’ve noticed that the connection earlier between us and our guest was kinda bad. Earlier in the episode. Thankfully, from this point on we were able to correct it using the power of technology and also our editor, Jordan Kawling. And so we now return to the slightly-better-sounding end half rest of the episode of *New Mutants* you’ve already been listening to. Thank you!

00:15:15 Arnie Guest I was very drawn to the *New Mutants*, I think, from the covers? I was kinda just young enough that I was really into like Warlock, the robot who I guess is—which I’m sad was—

00:15:26 Stuart Host Alien.

00:15:27 Arnie Guest Yeah. You’re right. He is an alien robot. Like, genetic robot? I dunno. It’s too hard to—

00:15:32 Elliott Host He’s a techno-organic being and that makes him a mutant. Is that on his world, they are naturally aggressive and hostile, but he is friendly. And so he’s like a programming mutant. That’s how they got him in the group.

00:15:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Arnie laughs.]*  
**Arnie:** You could explain it that way.

00:15:46 Arnie Guest **Dan:** Yeah. I—I—  
I prefer to like stammer on for about a minute trying to figure out how to explain what Warlock is.

00:15:50 Elliott Host You know what? To each their own. I apologize. Let's do it your way. *[Laughs.]*

00:15:53 Dan Host He was definitely one of my favorites in the *New Mutants* and I'm sad that he was not in this. I guess they kind of nod to it with Alleria's armor? A little bit?

00:16:02 Elliott Host Well, no, that's her armor that she has in the comics, too. But they originally at one point wanted Warlock in this but it was gonna be too expensive. So the plan was to introduce him in the sequel where the New Mutants go to Brazil! That sequel was not made.

00:16:16 Arnie Guest *[Dan laughs.]*  
And then apparently the third was going to be the *Inferno* comic book story. Which would've been cool as well.

00:16:23 Elliott Host It would've been really interesting to see how they do *Inferno* with—they cannot have a lot of the characters that are central to *Inferno* because they're X-Men characters. Y'know. Unless they bring 'em back! I dunno.

00:16:34 Stuart Host Maybe they'll have the Hobgoblin become an actual monster like he did in the *Inferno* stories.

00:16:39 Elliott Host That was great! I mean, again, that's a different company. Has the Spider-Man movies. But, y'know. I mean they're all Disney now. Let's do it. Let's see it happen!

00:16:48 Stuart Host But he's a Spider-Man villain. Does that mean that Sony has the rights to him?

00:16:51 Elliott Host It is. Exactly. And so the MCU only gets to use Spider-Man. That's why *Venom* has his own spin-off series. So I guess Hobgoblin would turn into a demon in *Inferno* in the *Venom* movies. Which would be a strange distortion of the original actual history that happened. *[Laughs.]*

00:17:08 Stuart Host Uh-huh. But I'm still up for it. So. Our movie opens with Dani Moonstar giving us a little bit of a monologue about how every human being has two bears living *[through laughter]* inside of them.

00:17:20 Elliott Host Now, guys, is that true? Is it? Because I'm—

00:17:22 Dan Host I know that good things come in bears.

00:17:25 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah. That's—I mean, Dan, do not—you have to stop sticking your hand down bears' mouths and into their butts. Because you're not gonna find—you haven't found a good thing yet and you're not gonna find anything. At best you're gonna find a half-digested salmon and I don't think that's what you want.

00:17:40 Stuart Host Dan, it's talking like that that got you fired from the Care Bears store.

00:17:43 Elliott Host Yeah. He just has a penknife and he's just digging open all the bears to find the good things—the jewels inside? 'Cause this monologue, it bothered me, too. 'Cause I know sometimes my tummy growls and I was like, "Is that 'cause there's a bear in there?" *[Laughs.]*

00:17:56 Dan Host I mean, I know that I've put on a little weight recently, but I don't think there's enough space in me for two bears.

00:18:01 Arnie Guest *[Stuart laughs.]*  
 What would it be like to work with someone in an office who really bought into this two-bear theory—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—and explained everything they did? Like, “Oh, sorry, guys. Today it’s a bad bear day for me. I’m gonna be trying to be more of a good bear tomorrow.”

00:18:14 Elliott Host “The bears are not happy right now.” I mean, all people have duality. There’s a good side and a bad side and a bear side!

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:18:24 Dan Host Well the way you—when you put it that way, Elliott, it’s like, “Why do we have to bring bears into it?” Like, “There’s a duality. People have a good side and a bad side.” Great. “There’s also bears inside you.” “Well now I’m confused.”

00:18:37 Stuart Host And in that office break room you’re not allowed to have one of those little honey containers that looks like a bear because that coworker gets upset?

00:18:43 Elliott Host Yeah. That would be—they would be—that’s problematic for them. Now, here’s the problem, is that every now and then someone is born with three bears inside them. And that makes ‘em vulnerable to having little blonde girls just climb in their mouths and sit on their chairs that are in there. Eat all the porridge. Sleep in the beds. You don’t want that.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:18:57 Stuart Host So Dani gives this little monologue about how everybody’s got a good bear and a bad bear. Well young Dani gets woken up by her dad. Something large and unseen is attacking the trailer that they live in. She runs off into the woods. This thing kills her dad. She is left knocked out in the snow. Only to wake up in a mental hospital chained to a gurney!

00:19:23 Arnie Guest Can I just for a second go back? The part where her father is killed was pretty... comically bad, I thought. Like, he just walks off screen and then immediately like hops back onto screen dead.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:19:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Yeah. It has all the timing of that scene in what—*Planet Terror*?

**Arnie:** You’re forgetting—

**Dan:** No, I mean, I—

00:19:45 Stuart Host Where *[through laughter]* the kid gets left alone with a gun—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—and immediately kills himself?

00:19:48 Elliott Host And instantly shoots himself? *[Laughs.]*

00:19:50 Dan Host Now was the father’s death before or was that when it happened that there was just basically total blackness on screen with a bunch of sound effects?



00:20:02 Stuart Host Probably around there. I mean, I feel like that whole opening was—it was shot in a way to make it look like it's in the middle of a snowstorm and it's intentionally obscuring what could be behind them. But it's—yeah. I mean, it's—it doesn't look good. It looks bad. It looks very cheap.

00:20:20 Elliott Host It's a little bit, I think, of them trying to be a little cheap and also they want to save what that bear looks like for the big climax. So they're doing a little bit of *Godzilla: King of the Monsters* thing here, where they're like, "Let's have this monster be obscured by snow and darkness." But it doesn't help with the poignancy of the dad's death. But again, Stuart—as you're saying—we don't have long to focus on that because she wakes up handcuffed to a gurney. Uh-oh! Did the bear do that?

00:20:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Arnie:** That was the good bear, right?

00:20:47 Arnie Guest **Stuart:** The bear did not do that. She—  
The good bear, probably came in and got her to the local hospital.

00:20:50 Stuart Host *[Elliott laughs.]*  
Yeah. So she's introduced to Dr. Reyes, who is—y'know, seems to be a psychiatrist or something at this mental hospital? Who tries to comfort and gaslight her at the same time, telling her that it was a tornado that killed her family and her whole town. And then Dr. Reyes welcomes her to a place for "New Mutants!" Title! Though we don't know what her mutant power is. So—

00:21:20 Dan Host Now I just wanted to say a word about this institution, since we just arrived there? This is kind of—it's like, y'know, like a halfway house for—like, they're trying to make it sort of like—

00:21:31 Elliott Host No, no, it's a whole house.

00:21:34 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
Like it's for like troubled teenaged mutants. And the— *[Laughs.]* It will surprise no one who has seen a movie before that ultimately there's more to this institution than meets the eye? But it seems like it takes the kids a very long time to like really have that sink in, considering that it appears that Dr. Reyes is the only doctor there.

00:21:58 Elliott Host Yes. Is the only staff member at all! There's no maintenance staff. No janitorial. There's nobody who works the front desk. Like, it from moment one feels like a woman is squatting in an abandoned hospital—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—and has kidnapped several children. Which is not that different from—y'know. What it is. But I was like—the whole movie, I was like, "Are they not gonna have anyone else work at this place?" Like—the fact that one of the new mutants is seen cooking and doing the dishes for the others. And it's like, this is weird that he also, I guess, works there.

00:22:29 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
Even in *Glass*, where the fake institution was understaffed and incompetently staffed, they at least had like five people there.

00:22:37 Elliott Host Yeah. But no, this is just the one person. And it's—

00:22:40 Stuart Host Yeah. And the whole place—the whole place feels rundown? There’s no fence—there’s no fence around it. There’s like a gate but the gate is opened. The kids are told—

00:22:49 Elliott Host An abandoned clock tower, for some reason?

00:22:52 Stuart Host And church!

00:22:53 Elliott Host And church, yeah. It’s a whole abandoned church—there’s an entire abandoned church and I could never be quite sure—the kids seemed to have the run of the place except for the times of day when the movie needs them not to have the run of the place and they need to escape to have the run of the place. Otherwise they seem to just be able to go wherever. It’s got a real *Resident Evil/Silent Hill* feeling of, like, “Here’s your limited are that you have freedom of movement in and you’re gonna be walking through a lot of empty rooms.” But anyway. I’m getting ahead of myself.

00:23:18 Arnie Guest It’s got a real dreamlike quality that I kept trying to figure out if it was a choice? But I think wasn’t?

00:23:25 Stuart Host Yeah. And it—yeah. It feels unstuck in time, as well. I mean part of it is that it’s—this is a movie that—based on the slang the kids use and the musical choices—feels like it’s set in the ‘80s, I’m guessing. But—and there’s nothing to indicate—other than a few odd mentions of “mutants” and the “x-men,” there’s nothing tying it to a greater world that we understand. Like it could just exist in some kind of Sartre-style existentialist prison.

00:23:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Maybe it does?

00:23:58 Arnie Guest **Arnie:** They do watch *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* at one point?

00:24:01 Elliott Host So I guess it’s at least in the ‘90s?

00:24:01 Elliott Host So this movie apparently was supposed—again, it was supposed to be a follow-up to *X-Men: Apocalypse*. So it was supposed to take place in the ‘80s. And when *X-Men: Apocalypse* didn’t do well, they were like, “Forget the ‘80s.” And I think they just didn’t—it’s not like they— *[Laughs.]* They didn’t go out of their way being like, “Hey, did you hear Billie Eilish’s song? I love it!” Like just to get modern references in there? So I think they—I think they were going—I think it was probably originally written as an ‘80s-set thing and they just didn’t feel the need to put them all on Instagram. Y’know.

00:24:27 Dan Host *Buffy* would be later than that. But that, I assume, came from the reboot.

00:24:31 Elliott Host No, no, I think that was—I mean, I wouldn’t be surprised. If you guys saw *Mank*, where in a studio meeting they’re talking about movies that haven’t been made yet, disparagingly? The seen takes place in, what, 1930? ‘31? And they’re talking about *The Wolf Man*? That wasn’t made yet! Excuse me! Take that, *Mank*.

00:24:48 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
I kinda want to arrest whoever let Elliott watch *Mank*, because it’s been *[through laughter]*—

00:24:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —making its way into our conversations too often.

00:24:55 Dan Host **Dan:** *[Laughs.]* No, I love it! I was about to—

00:25:04 Elliott Host I was about to suggest a new segment on our show, which is Every Episode, Elliott Brings Up One More Small Grievance About *Mank*. I’ve got—there’s—the problem I have with *Mank* is that if the movie is not made for people like me, who is it made for?

*[All laugh.]*

And yet it is not made for people like—it seems to be, “Here’s a movie for people who are really interested in behind-the-scenes of *Citizen Kane*. But if you know about the behind-the-scenes of *Citizen Kane*, you will not like what you see.” Like, ugh. Man. Anyway. So that’s my recommendation, is *The New Mank-ants*. That’s my version of *Mank*, where I’ve re-edited it and re-cut it. It’s me playing the Gary Oldman part since I’m closer to Mank’s actual age than Gary Oldman is.

00:25:34 Stuart Host So yeah. The whole place feels run-down and abandoned. But there are a few high-tech security systems—

00:25:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Oh wait, guys, sorry. What if this movie was called—sorry, Stuart. Sorry, Stuart.

00:25:42 Elliott Host **Stuart:** There’s cameras. There’s special locks. What if this movie was called *The New Muppets* and it was all the Muppets that got kicked off? Like the host of that *Muppets Live* show or whatever, or the weird humanoid robot and like Bean Bunny? Like, all the Muppets that were never that popular and they’re stuck in there.

00:25:56 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* And that Caribbean Muppet that was from *Muppets Tonight?*

00:25:59 Elliott Host *Muppets Tonight!* That’s the one I’m thinking of! Who was the host of *Muppets Tonight* and then they just kind of like, “This isn’t working out. Let’s just—” And what if it was that?

00:26:04 Dan Host “Let’s just put Kermit in here.”

00:26:05 Elliott Host Would that be better?

00:26:06 Stuart Host Are you asking me?

00:26:08 Elliott Host Yeah.

00:26:09 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
Oh. *[Laughs.]* Okay. Uh, let’s see... uh, I don’t care. So—

00:26:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Arnie:** But wait. What would the second and third movie—

**Elliott:** Okay, fair. Fair.

00:26:18 Arnie Guest **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Oh god.

00:26:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk —in the *Muppets* trilogy be about? That’s what I wanna know.  
**Elliott:** Well *The New Muppets*, they could go to Brazil. There’s no reason for them not to!

**Dan:** Stuart! I’d like— *[Laughs.]*

00:26:26 Dan Host **Stuart:** That might make me care!  
*[Through laughter]* I’d like to point out, Stuart, that if it suddenly becomes allowed to not care about dumb bullshit then our entire podcast unravels. *[Laughs.]*

00:26:36 Elliott Host Yes. That house of cards was just gonna crumble. Fall to the ground.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And by “crumble” I don’t just mean the cards are gonna fall. The cards will crumble to dust.

00:26:44 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
 00:26:46 Elliott Host Yeah. *[Laughs.]* So. We meet the—  
 00:26:47 Stuart Host So they're under surveillance.  
 We meet the other—we meet the other inmates-slash-patients.  
 They kind of form like a weird little support group? For the most part  
 these kids just kinda hang around and occasionally sit around in  
 chairs and share their stories and listen to Dr. Reyes. We have  
 Rahne, played by—oh man, I didn't write that part down.  
 00:27:06 Elliott Host From *Game of Thrones!*  
 00:27:07 Stuart Host She's from *Game of Thrones*. We have Rahne, who's like a wolf  
 girl. She's sympathetic. She's got a Scottish accent. We have  
 Eliana—  
 00:27:15 Elliott Host That's Maisie Williams. Maisie Williams is Rahne.  
 00:27:18 Stuart Host Maisie Williams. Thank you. We have Illyana Rasputin, who is the  
 Lord of Limbo. She's bitchy. She's Russian. Well I think.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 00:27:29 Arnie Guest I literally could not figure out what her—I didn't hear her name? I  
 didn't figure out what character she was supposed to be *[through  
 laughter]* until much later. Because I could not unravel the accent!  
 00:27:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Oh. Yeah. I think they made a mistake with that.

00:27:42 Dan Host **Dan:** Yeah. I gotta say—I mean, like—  
 Anya Taylor-Joy, I think, is just transfixing. Like a great actor. I've  
 loved her in basically everything? Here I'm like, I don't blame her? I  
 blame the director who heard that *[through laughter]* Russian  
 accent and was like, "Yeah! Go with that!" Like... this is such a—it  
 doesn't sound like anything at all. And there're a lot of—part of the  
 reason why I blame the director is there are multiple weird accents.  
 Like the kid from *Stranger Things* has the broadest, like,  
 Appalachian accent. Which is—like, I mean, it's actually kind of  
 okay in the quieter scenes? But as soon as he gets made he's like,  
*[with strong Southern accent]* "Well, heck! Yoo-hoo! Shoot!"  
 00:28:22 Elliott Host Yeah. He might as well be blowing in a jug the whole time and  
 like—and dancing around—  
 00:28:26 Stuart Host Singing "Which Side Are You On?" or something.

*[Elliott laughs.]*  
 00:28:29 Arnie Guest The characters in this movie are less mutants; disgressive accent  
 choices.

*[All laugh.]*  
 00:28:34 Elliott Host Their power is the power to caricature actual regional dialects  
 and sounds. But yeah. Anya Taylor-Joy, I think they  
 would've—another thing where in the comics, of course,  
 Illyana is the younger sister of Colossus, the Russian X-Man,  
 and I think they probably should've just cut the cord and made  
 her Russian-American and with an American accent. Because  
 it does not—it doesn't help her. To have this kind of like—it's  
 not even—it would've been way better if it was way over the  
 top and it was like a Boris Badenov, like, Moose and Squirrel  
 type Russian accent? But instead it's just kinda like... it  
 sounds like a teen girl who is trying on a persona. Y'know.

00:29:10 Arnie Guest I—even if they had for a second just had a character say, “Ugh. She’s Russian.”

*[All laugh.]*

00:29:24 Stuart Host Like when I found out she’s Russian, I’m like, “Okay, okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I can kinda hear it.” But I literally spent fifteen minutes of this movie trying to figure it out.

00:29:36 Elliott Host The—she’s kinda the troublemaker/bad boy of the group. Which—my wife pointed out—it makes it weird that she was the one selected to give Dani the tour around the place? Like, she clearly didn’t want the job.

00:29:51 Stuart Host Well I assumed that was a punishment on the part of Dr. Reyes. Like, “You’re being a jerk.” Also, oh, here’s my problem. Guys? Russian accent aside, how are we not talking about how she has a puppet named Lockheed who’s a little dragon? Uh, Lockheed is Shadowcat’s dragon? Illyana’s best friend? What is this all about? Suddenly—

00:29:55 Dan Host Man. I can’t believe I lost the bet that you brought that up first.

00:30:02 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:30:03 Dan Host Lockheed did come from Limbo, right? Like that’s where Kitty Pryde encountered Lockheed? Isn’t—

00:30:08 Elliott Host I honestly don’t remember.

00:30:19 Dan Host Didn’t Magik bring Lockheed back and then sort of Kitty inherited

00:30:22 Crosstalk Host Lockheed? That’s—

00:30:27 Elliott Host No, ‘cause I think they went to—I’m trying to remember when they first went to Limbo and fought Belasco. But I think they had gone there before Illyana was a character. I’m not sure about that.

00:30:35 Arnie Guest Oh, okay. Well I mean, this is all nonsense that alienates the—

00:30:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I’m just saying. I’m just saying, this is—this is—

00:30:43 Elliott Host **Dan:** —very small subset of people who listen to our show but don’t care about comics. *[Laughs.]*

00:31:01 Dan Host Guys, if you’re watching *Mank*, get ready for some problems. If you’re watching this, get ready for some historical errors. And the historical error here is that Lockheed is Kitty Pryde’s dragon.

00:31:26 Elliott Host Although in the Muppets version of this, does the Muppet that is Magik have a human on her hand?

**Stuart:** Yes.

**Elliott:** Well in the Muppet version—  
—I think the dragon is probably what’s-his-name? Uncle Deadly? The actual, y’know, kinda dragon-y character? And Miss Piggy, of course, would be Illyana. But she’s not like a castoff Muppet! She’s the one big-name Muppet that they bring in for the movie, so that the real Muppet aficionados have to be in there. And y’know—

00:31:26 Elliott Host Okay, okay, okay. Okay. I looked it up. Okay. Kitty—yes. Kitty found Lockheed, but—and it was, y’know, Kitty’s dragon mostly. But Lockheed occasionally accompanies Illyana after she joins the X-Men’s junior team, the New Mutants. So this actually would be appropriate to the comic Illyana.

00:31:26 Elliott Host Mm, alright. I’ll allow it. Okay. This is not what I would call an MS—a Mank Situation—so I don’t have a good argument.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:31:33 Stuart Host Okay. Who—and what—are the other Mutants?  
*[Laughs.]* Thank you. So we're halfway through our Mutant descriptions.

*[All laugh.]*

00:32:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk We have Sam, who has the mutant power to cannonball all over the place. He's kind of a blue-collar guy from Kentucky. He's quiet. Brooding. Has a very—let's say... aggressive accent. Yeah. I think Arnie put it best. So when he isn't being quiet he is, y'know, y'know.  
**Elliott:** And he's constantly talking about—

00:32:02 Dan Host **Dan:** And he's the older brother from *Stranger Things*.  
00:32:04 Elliott Host Have we mentioned that? I can't remember.  
I don't think so. He's constantly talking about being in the mines in Kentucky. Constantly. Like, never stops talking about being in the mines.

00:32:11 Stuart Host Mm-hm. He's like Matawan. And then we have Roberto, who is a young Brazilian guy. He's kind of a rich, macho jock character who—it's clearly a façade. He doesn't want people getting too close so they don't get burned up. Literally.

00:32:30 Dan Host Mm-hm. Um... yeah. I agree. That these are things that happen.  
00:32:37 Stuart Host *[Laughs.]* Okay. So we're introduced to these characters as I said before, we—

00:32:39 Elliott Host Dan seconds that cast of characters.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:32:42 Dan Host Yup. Motion carried and proceed.  
00:32:46 Elliott Host And that's who's in the movie.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:32:48 Stuart Host During our tour, Dani tries to run away. She tries to get out of there. Of course she runs right into an invisible wall. There's a forcefield around the whole place.

00:32:58 Dan Host I also liked the clumsy shorthand during this tour where they walk outside and immediately Illyana takes some spray paint out of a hiding place and starts like she's gonna do some graffiti and is like, "You're my lookout!" And I'm like, "Wow. Shorthand for bad girl." Right? Like, very quick.

00:33:20 Stuart Host So. Dani then has a flashback to about ten minutes ago from the opening sequence of the movie. She then climbs to the top of the abandoned clock tower. She appears to be contemplating suicide, and then Rahne shows up and they have a little chat and bonding and then they like fall down the floor and hug.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:33:41 Elliott Host But they've all—  
They don't fall off the clock tower onto the floor. They fall backwards. Back into the clock tower. Yeah.

00:33:46 Dan Host There was a step in-between where they went back inside.  
*[Laughs.]*

00:33:49 Stuart Host Yeah, yeah. All the kids are being observed. As I said, the high-tech security systems are doing biometric scans on everybody to tell us how mutant they are. We're told—the kids are all told that if they

complete the treatment that they're gonna be able to leave, possibly graduate and join the X-Men, and that Dr. Reyes has a mysterious, like, boss/benefactor/partner figure who the kids all assume is Professor X. Around now, Sam has a—this is when the movie kicks into the real horror gear. Where Sam is in the washing room—the laundry room, they call it—or the washing room. I don't know. They don't really address it.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:34:32 Elliott Host  
00:34:36 Dan Host

They never actually refer to it by any name, so. *[Laughs.]* So. *[Through laughter]* Yeah. That's in the "goofs" section of the IMDB page. Is, "They don't address whether this is a washroom or a laundry room at any point."

00:34:43 Elliott Host

"Unlike most movies that involve washing machines, this movie never addresses what the name of the room in which they're located is."

*[All laugh.]*

00:34:50 Stuart Host

Yeah. Sam has a psionic ghost event where he touches a washing machine and finds himself transported deep into the mines of Kentucky, surrounded by miners and his father, before being slammed out of it and slammed up against the wall. Spooky!

00:35:09 Dan Host  
00:35:10 Stuart Host

Yeah, what's going on?  
I dunno!

*[Dan laughs.]*

But during this whole time, the registers are reading psionic activity coming out of Dani so there's an obvious connection there. At least for us, the viewers.

00:35:21 Elliott Host

And the psionic readings explain why they picked up Dani in the first place, since everyone keeps saying, "What's your power? What's your power? What's your power?" That's the way they know she's a mutant, 'cause otherwise there are times where I was like, "Well, how do they know she is a mutant if they don't know what her power is; they've never seen her use it." But.

00:35:36 Dan Host

Thank you for that explanation, Elliott, 'cause I had the same question *[through laughter]* when I was watching.

00:35:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Elliott:** Oh, this is me—this is me providing an explanation—

00:35:41 Elliott Host

**Stuart:** I mean, for the most part—  
—based on the clues in the movie. They never say that. But I was like—

00:35:45 Dan Host

Yeah. They didn't even—they didn't take any midichlorian levels, so how do they know? *[Laughs.]*

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:35:51 Stuart Host

So Dani and Illyana get in a fight and they get stuck in solitary. This is when we get a little bit more of an idea that Illyana—despite her bad-boy—or bad-girl—front has, y'know, she's got a troubled past. She has dreams of being a child surrounded by smiley-faced monster slendermen that dress like European fellows. And—

00:36:18 Dan Host

I have to say, these slendermen—not to spoil what you've probably already surmised.

00:36:24 Stuart Host

Yeah. You can spoil away.

00:36:26 Dan Host All of these manifestations are the fears of these characters? And I had to look on the Wikipedia page to figure out what Illyana's fear was? Because this is the most—

00:36:40 Elliott Host Really?

00:36:41 Dan Host Well, 'cause it's the most abstractly-suggested one. It is just these like smiling men. Whereas everyone else's fear is literally like a horrible thing that like happened to them, presented very straightforwardly.

00:36:55 Stuart Host I mean, I thought it was—I mean, I thought it was pretty clear that she was being human trafficked or something by these creepos.

00:37:02 Elliott Host Yeah. That's what—it seemed pretty—that seemed pretty clear to me. Maybe Dan just has a purer heart and he doesn't think the worst of the world.

00:37:09 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
No. I just, they were the only ones that are not a direct representation of the thing. Like, these are... monsters because the metaphor is that, y'know, she had these monstrous people do this to her. Whereas the other ones are like basically what happened.

00:37:29 Elliott Host Sam being in a mine and then seeing his dad and then blowing things up is not a metaphor for anything. Like it's—yeah. That's what happened to him.

00:37:41 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
But yeah. I think the movie is rightfully recognizing that it does not have the—

00:37:42 Elliott Host Gravititas?

00:37:48 Dan Host —shoulders and the gravitas to carry a realistic depiction of trafficking? And so has decided to do it in the form of slendermen. *[Laughs.]* Well let's be clear. I was not arguing for that necessarily. I was just like—

00:37:52 Elliott Host No, I don't think you were arguing either way. Just, y'know, that—

00:37:54 Dan Host "Why are these smiley slendermen all over the place?"

00:37:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Arnie:** Also, we have the scarcity of things that look or feel scary in any way.

00:38:01 Arnie Guest **Elliott:** I mean, it's also possible—

00:38:04 Elliott Host So they're just sort of like, "Maybe we can add this!"  
Yeah. I mean, unless it is a little representation and she was kidnapped by a bunch of slendermen with smiley faces. And—

00:38:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*  
I mean, that would be—you'd think she would make that clearer to them. That she would mention, "Oh yeah, these are the monsters that actually took me 'cause we live in a superhero fantasy world, so why can't that exist."  
*[Dan laughs.]*  
Y'know? "I teleport and I have a soul sword and one armored arm and a dragon puppet that is kind of also a dragon, so why not? I live in a magic world. Why not, guys? What's wrong with that?"  
**Elliott:** And the character she's telling this to was a Muppet, anyway. So like, y'know.



00:38:37 Elliott Host  
00:38:40 Stuart Host  
00:38:59 Elliott Host  
00:39:00 Stuart Host  
00:39:08 Stuart Host  
00:39:10 Stuart Host  
00:39:11 Elliott Host  
00:39:38 Dan Host  
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00:40:05 Dan Host  
00:40:17 Elliott Host  
00:40:18 Stuart Host  
00:40:19 Elliott Host  
00:40:22 Stuart Host  
00:40:45 Elliott Host  
00:40:58 Dan Host  
00:41:00 Elliott Host  
00:41:00 Stuart Host  
00:41:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Stuart:** So we didn't really talk about this, but—  
If Muppets can be in this world, why not, y'know?  
We didn't really talk about how Illyana's power is to create these like stepping discs that allow her to teleport away. And you know me—my favorite X-Men ancillary characters are always the teleporters. I love Lila Cheney; I love Magik; I love—  
Zero.  
Yup. I love 'em. All. So why does she stay in the place? *[Laughs.]*  
Why doesn't she just leave?  
Yeah. Yeah.  
Do they address that?  
They do not. My guess is that perhaps there is some kind of block going on for her power? That the force fields are also affecting her ability to use her power to do that? Or also—she recognizes that, “Y'know what? Deep down I do need help. And I have trauma that I need to deal with and maybe this isn't the best place to deal with it? A severely understaffed haunted hospital? But y'know, you gotta play the cards life deals ya. Y'know.” *[Laughs.]*  
Now, the first time she teleports—forgive me if I'm wrong—I may have blinked and missed it. I don't think they do the portal thing, which annoyed me. I think she just kinda bamps like Nightcrawler.  
No, that's true.  
Later on you see a portal, but.  
Well I think they're making a distinction, I think, between when she teleports in this world and when she travels through the magical universe of Limbo, which she has either discovered through escaping trauma or has invented. It's—they've just kinda given her general, like... magic powers. Y'know.  
Yeah. Not to get—again—way back too deep into nerdship. I guess it's *The New Mutants* so what are ya gonna do? I always thought that her teleportation power always was through Limbo, though.  
She's like—  
Yeah, it was.  
Yeah. Okay.  
Hey, man. I'm just telling you what it looks like in the movie.  
Yeah. So around now, Rahne has her own like psychic psionic ghost event where she is at the rundown church. The abandoned church. And she's confessing her sins to what you assume to be no one. And then she hears a ghostly voice of a priest who had abused her in the past. *[Deep breath.]* The kids—we find out—  
She's kind of—has she mentioned already that she went to a priest and told him what her—told him about her power and he told her she was evil. That she was a demon. And she has either an M or a W branded on her neck.  
I believe it is a “W” for witch.  
Or “Wolfsbane.”  
“M” also works.  
**Elliott:** That's her superhero name. Or “Wolf.” Or “M” also works for Mutant because Rahne—as you'll find—and for Muppet!

**Dan:** Or Wolf. Or Wolf.

**Stuart:** Yep. *[Laughs.]* Or Muppet!

**Arnie:** Or “Muppet!”

00:41:08 Elliott Host Yeah. Because Rahne, as you'll notice, has Lew Zealand powers? Where she kind of puts on a frilly outfit and throws fish?

00:41:16 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
*[With Lew Zealand accent]* I throw the fish and they come back to me! *[Regular accent]* Maybe that's why he chose a W 'cause he knew that it could be seen as an M and there are all these levels. There are all these different levels.

00:41:27 Stuart Host Yeah. He likes references. He likes—y'know, he likes somebody giving you something to think about. So the kids have—

00:41:35 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
—a secret attic—  
What good is religion if not to give us something to think about, y'know?

00:41:39 Stuart Host Yeah. No. That's a good point.

00:41:40 Stuart Host The kids have a secret attic where they claim there's no cameras so they can do whatever they want. Although I think we do see that there is a camera up there, watching them. And they decide to play a game of truth or dare, but actually there's no dare. It's just truth. And they use a lie detector, which they use the blood pressure gauge and put that sleeve right over their clothes. Which I think is probably a representation of their mutant powers. Their—

00:42:01 Dan Host Like a heavy fucking denim jacket. They put that band around it. I'm like, what do you think that's gonna do, man?

00:42:06 Elliott Host I mean, guys, I hate to break it to you. Lie detector tests also don't work, so it's fine. Just like put it over a hat. Like who cares?

00:42:14 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Do you think the actor who plays Sam, when they're like, "Okay, so we have to—you have to take off the denim jacket." And he's like, "Oh, no. I just got this full sleeve of tattoos."

00:42:22 Elliott Host He goes *[with thick Southern accent]* "Read my contract! It says, 'No jacket, no shoot.'" "Okay. Let's see. It does say that. He does not have to shoot scenes without the jacket on. Oh boy."

00:42:30 Arnie Guest Also, kids that are spending—or teenagers that are spending a lot of their days doing group counseling, at night they like to blow off steam by forcing each other to unburden themselves with stories?

00:42:42 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
That's a good point! They probably don't have secrets from each other at this point, so why—you'd think they would really heavily go on to "dare" since they're all mutants and they can do crazy mutant things, but no. Truth is it, y'know.

00:42:53 Stuart Host They're like, "We were gonna do dare but there's no budget for it."

00:42:58 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
It's like someone who works at an ice cream store and they're like, "I gotta go home and get some scooping in. I just gotta relax this arm and scoop some more."

00:43:05 Stuart Host Yeah. So Dani shares that story of the demon bear. Once again just to do a little flashback. So everybody has two bears living inside them.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:43:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk There's a good bear and a bad bear.  
**Stuart:** When you're a little kid—

00:43:18 Elliott Host **Elliott:** We call—they're called—Dani—  
Dani describes them as a Yogi and a Boo Boo. And the Boo Boo is the good bear and the Yogi's the bad bear.

00:43:24 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah. I mean, y'know, he's a bad bear. But he's not that bad. It's mostly like pick-a-nick basket theft.

00:43:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Is the farthest he'll go.

00:43:33 Elliott Host **Elliott:** He's the thief, Dan!  
He's the thief! Okay. Imagine this.

00:43:35 Dan Host Yeah. To feed himself!

00:43:36 Elliott Host Okay. I'm someone living close to, if not below, the poverty line. I don't have a home and I don't—and this is the most—the only food I've been able to scrounge up. I'm going to go to the park to eat it and a bear takes it from me. A very well-fed bear wearing a hat and a tie. That's right—he's a white-collar bear and he's stealing my only meal. Not okay. That's—that's a hard crime. That's bad.

00:43:56 Stuart Host So when you're a little kid, this bear—the bad bear starts real small. But as you get older that bad bear inside you gets way bigger. Right guys? You can feel it. You can feel it get bigger inside of ya.

00:44:07 Dan Host Well, I mean, this last few years I can feel bad bear getting bigger inside of me, certainly.

00:44:12 Stuart Host So they had this little hang and then the next morning Reyes—Dr. Reyes—yells at them. She gets mad and tells them that if they keep fucking around they'll never get to leave. So of course they drug her and knock her out and they have another Breakfast Club-style '90s kids party where they dance to "Bastards of Young" and I'm like, "That feels like when you watch a movie from the '80s and the kids are all dancing to fucking doo-wop songs and you're like, 'What?'"

00:44:36 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Well but also I was like— *[Laughs.]* Look. I love the Replacements. I was thrilled to hear "Bastards of Young" play. But no. I was like, is this what people—like, kids this age at this time period were listening to?

00:44:50 Elliott Host Well even the fact that they literally drugged the tea of their only authority. And they're doing stuff they could've done probably when she was awake. They're just dancing to music. Y'know. Unless she's Dr. Footloose—

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:45:04 Dan Host —I don't see it as a problem.  
"Dr. Footloose, I've come as soon as I can! My foot is—my foot is *[through laughter]* falling off my leg."

00:45:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** "Oh, we get this a lot. That's actually a mistake."

00:45:11 Elliott Host **Dan:** "No, that's not actually—common—"  
"That's not what I specialize in."

*[All laugh.]*

“It’s just a name. From the German ‘Futloshen.’”

*[All laugh.]*

00:45:23 Stuart Host Yeah. So it does feel a little bit—the non—like, the media in this movie, whether it’s the music or the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, feels a little bit like a dad is forcing his teenage kids to watch what he liked growing up.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:45:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
00:45:37 Stuart Host **Dan and Elliott:** Yeah. So now that they have no supervision, they go off and do their fun things. Rahne and Dani go out to a graveyard and watch the rain fall on the forcefield and they make out a little bit. Berto and Illyana go swimming—or so he thinks, because Berto gets a visit from a little flaming ghost of his dead girlfriend. That’s right—he has a psionic ghost event! Uh-oh! And that forces him to manifest his mutant power, which is to turn into a big flaming version of himself, which is the same size as the normal version of himself. And everybody freaks out—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—and then Dr. Reyes grabs a stick and pushes him into the pool. Which was pretty funny.

00:46:20 Elliott Host Yeah. You said that as if you thought it was disappointing that he didn’t turn into a giant version of himself.

00:46:24 Stuart Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah.

00:46:26 Dan Host I—so... *[Laughs.]* Okay. This flaming ghost is his girlfriend that he accidentally—

00:46:32 Elliott Host Great name for a ‘90s band. “The Flaming Ghosts.”

00:46:34 Dan Host His girlfriend he accidentally set on fire. Now this butts up against one of my problems with the X-Men and mutant books in general? As much as I love them? So you’ve got—he kills his girlfriend. Cannonball killed his dad and all of the people in the mine. Dani is causing untold chaos. And I do not— *[Laughs.]* I don’t think I need to say this—I do not sanction the kidnapping and either euthanasian or weaponization of these mutants in it, but it also does raise the question like, “Well... these people are kinda dangerous. They’ve killed a lot of people. I mean, it’s accidental, but...”

00:47:23 Elliott Host I mean, in Illyana’s case it was not accidental. She brags about killing eighteen men with her sword.

00:47:27 Dan Host Sure. But those were her captors. That’s a little more understandable than just like—y’know, a couple of them killed their parents accidentally. I’m not—y’know, they shouldn’t be punished for it at all? But it does cut against this idea of like, “Yeah, but they killed these people.”

00:47:42 Elliott Host Well I’m gonna let you in on two thoughts I’ve had about the X—my—two of my issues with the X-Men. One is societal, and the other is biological. So societal. The X-Men—it’s basically understood as canon in comic books readership world, for anyone who’s not a comic books reader, that the X-Men are a Civil Rights allegory where it is about people who are different than everyone else who are demonized for their differences. But you’re right. What they have is genuinely very dangerous and it’s like... the analogy starts to fall apart when it’s like, “Well, non-white-people can’t shoot

uncontrollable laser beams from their eyes.” Or like, y’know, like, it’s—

00:48:18 Dan Host There’s no danger that a gay person is going to Dark Phoenix on you. *[Laughs.]*

00:48:22 Elliott Host No! Yeah! That a Black person at the age of thirteen will accidentally explode and kill a town. Like, that doesn’t happen. So that’s where that analogy starts to fall apart. But the other thing is that—so they’re always talking about how they’re the next step in evolution. Like, *Homo superior* is here. And it’s hard for me to see what is the evolutionary advantage of getting so burning hot that you cannot mate and reproduce and pass on your genes to another generation?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Or like, what is the evolutionary advantage of, y’know, exploding sometimes and accidentally? Like, it’s—evolution usually—I mean, there’s all sorts of different mutations in nature. But often the mutations that hurt the host or their mate don’t pass on? Because—and the things that are—so it’s like, you’d think that there’d—I guess what I’m saying is you think there’d be more useful and less fighting-based X-Men powers. Evolution usually—it’s not like suddenly someone is born with a sword for a hand ‘cause it helps them be a better fighter. Like, fighting is not really one of the things that evolution gets you to usually.

00:49:22 Dan Host Well I mean, what you’re saying makes sense in the context of, like, actual evolution as it happens. Although it does— *[Laughs.]* Like, I mean like there are all sorts of yeah. As you say, detrimental mutations that aren’t passed down. Like that’s how they’re filtered out over the years. But mutations as they occur in Marvel universe are just randomly springing up extremely powerful deviations *[through laughter]* from the norm. But.

00:49:50 Elliott Host Well yeah. But it’s—but it’s like—I understand the evolutionary advantage of being able to control the weather. That would be great. That would help humanity immensely. But again, the lasers shooting out of the eyes or like so many mutants have the ability to absorb energy and then blast it out as lasers? And it’s like, how is that helpful? In any way?

00:50:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Digging tunnels, I guess?

**Arnie:** It seems like the only evolutionary—

00:50:08 Arnie Guest **Dan:** I’m just saying that—

00:50:11 Dan Host It seems like the only evolutionary—oh, go ahead, Dan. Sorry. No, sorry. Just to directly respond to Elliott, it seems like these mutations are not like naturally selected for, though, Elliott. What you’re saying makes sense in the context of natural selection, not in the context of, “Oh, we gave birth to someone who’s a teleporting demon blue thing.” *[Laughs.]*

00:50:28 Elliott Host Well and also—well and also because I guess the evolutionary purpose is to make them cool battlers for superhero battles. But like, I’ve been reading a lot of the old *X-Men* issues with my older son. We’re going through the first 60-some-odd issues in order. And it’s so often so many times that he’s like, “Why are they not using their powers smarter?” Or he’ll point at Beast and he’ll be like,

“Well, Beast just has big feet. Like, that’s his mutation? He’s got big feet?” But.

00:50:51 Dan Host Sorry, Arnie. What were you saying? I didn’t mean to—  
00:50:52 Arnie Guest I was just gonna say in this movie their only real evolutionary advantage is the ability to kill their parents.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:50:59 Elliott Host Which—I mean, Freud would tell you—is the ultimate mutant power. Yeah.

00:51:03 Dan Host The ultimate one. Yeah.  
00:51:05 Stuart Host Yeah. Any time I got assigned extra chore I wish I was a mutant, right?

00:51:10 Dan Host Um...  
00:51:11 Stuart Host Allergic to homework!

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:51:14 Elliott Host Okay! So—  
That’s not a power. That is a mutation. An allergy. But it’s not—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:51:19 Stuart Host Okay. So Dani’s powers continue to intensify. The nightmares become even more vivid. And more—and they’re having more of an effect on reality. At one point, Rahne gets assaulted in the shower by like a zombie version of the priest that she had killed who had previously branded her? And he brands her again, this time on her neck. And it’s horrible. And then— *[Laughs.]* Reyes—around now, Reyes get a hilariously long-loading email—  
*[Elliott laughs.]*

—where it’s one of those like—those like sci-fi emails where like you’re slowly watching it get typed out?

*[Elliott laughs.]*

And you’re like, shouldn’t this— *[Laughs.]* Why is this worse?

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:52:03 Elliott Host I love the idea of a software developer that was like, “I want people to feel the excitement of watching a story unfold. So I’ll have each word type out individually instead of just all the text coming up on screen, which would take less power. Less computing power.”

00:52:16 Stuart Host Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Yeah. I mean, it’s got killer graphics and that’s what kids like. Uh—

00:52:21 Arnie Guest Can I say—if you could send a dramatic email like that? Like if that was just an option in your Gmail or whatever? I would do it occasionally. If not too much.

00:52:32 Stuart Host I think you’re right. I think—I mean, I think we’re making jokes—we gotta TM this shit right now, right? So somebody doesn’t steal our idea? Dan. This is your idea, too. You gotta get in on this.

00:52:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Wait, wait, wait. Whoa, whoa. Since when was Dan involved in this idea?

**Dan:** Okay. Wait. No, wait—what—so— *[Laughs.]*

00:52:47 Dan Host So you’re saying—seems like Stuart is saying that is a covenant that must be entered into with all parties.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:52:54 Stuart Host Or else—  
Yeah. Everybody here. Everybody in the room. Otherwise Smiley will show up and kill us.

00:52:58 Dan Host Exactly.  
00:52:59 Elliott Host And steal our IP.  
00:53:01 Stuart Host Yeah. So Reyes gets this email and explains that Dani is too powerful. That she has to eliminate Dani. So Dan, I'm sorry if—by saying Dani all this time—it makes you uncomfortable. She just has the same name as you, basically. So—

00:53:13 Dan Host Apology accepted.

00:53:15 Stuart Host *[Elliott laughs.]*  
Reyes takes Dani to the basement. She, y'know, I think she explains to do tests or something? But then she— *[Laughs.]* At this point she's like, even though Dani is too powerful to live, Reyes knows she has to kill her. She slowly poisons her, giving her ample time to use her mutant powers to create an army of slendermen that attack Illyana, Sam, Berto—there's slendermen running all over this asylum. Right?

00:53:45 Elliott Host Attacking everybody except the one person who is hurting Dani at that moment.

00:53:48 Stuart Host Mm-hm. Well she doesn't have control over her powers yet, Elliott. That's kind of the point.

00:53:53 Elliott Host I guess that's true. That's fair.  
00:53:55 Stuart Host Rahne sneaks through the ducts and jumps down on—they—like, Rahne is sneaking through the ducts. Illyana is teleporting all over the place. Sam is using his blasting powers? Which basically like he explodes and flies, blowing up everything near him? Which is great in these enclosed hallways. Like, yeah.

00:54:13 Elliott Host Well there's a reason his mutant power—his mutant superhero name is "Cannonball." But it's also—

00:54:18 Stuart Host Which is—it makes me think, like, if Oldboy in the movie *Oldboy* had had this power, that fight scene wouldn't have been as cool, right?

00:54:27 Elliott Host Mm-hm. Instead of having the power of looking old even when he's a young man—which is the same power Gary Oldman has in *Mank*—

00:54:34 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Stuart, I imagined you—like, this was your—that you were one of those senators in an *X-Men* movie or comic who's like trying to get rid of mutants? But your reasoning was just like how it would make *Oldboy* less cool?

00:54:51 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*  
Now if Oldboy had telekinesis, for instance, he could just pick people up and throw 'em around!

00:54:57 Elliott Host *[With Southern drawl]* Now, I'm Senator Stuart Wellington from the great state of Louisiana. Now let's say your Old Boy had a ruby quartz eye lasers, then that hallway fight scene would be over real fast! How do you say to that, Professor Xavier?

00:55:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I like that— *[Laughs.]*

**Stuart:** “Every time Old Boy stared at his daughter-lover—”

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:55:15 Stuart Host “He would accidentally blast her to pieces!”  
00:55:19 Dan Host This argument is basically like anti-mutant in the same way you’d be like anti-cell phones in movies. Like, “It ruined all the plot points!”  
00:55:30 Stuart Host I do wanna point out that Sam uses his power and he blows these slendermen apart, but previously they’d address that—though he can use his power—he can never land. And so he’s always like slamming into things and he’s got broken bones and his face is all fucked up. But he uses his power here and then the next time we see him he’s totally fine. They don’t even show him land. I’m guessing it’s cause there’s—I mean, this whole movie feels like there’s about a third of the effects shots were just not included?  
00:55:57 Elliott Host Well here’s my guess about why he’s so beat up. So I don’t know if it’s this way, but in the comic books, Cannonball—when he’s in cannonball form—cannot be hurt? He’s super tough? So I think those are his injuries from the mine disaster. That he set off this mine disaster and broke his arm when it caved in on him or maybe a Grendel was like, “Hey! Why’d you blow up my mine?” And beat him up or something like that. Yeah.  
00:56:19 Stuart Host Uh-huh. So. So they realize that they’d been duped. That they find like the files in the—in Reyes’s office because once again there’s nobody else in this place.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

And they realize that they’re being trained to be killers and they decide to turn on Reyes, which is great because at this point Rahne has already jumped down out of the ducts and slashed up Reyes super-fucking-bad. Like, Rahne—like at first I’m like, “Oh, she just scratched her.” But later on we see Reyes and she’s like ripped to shreds, dude. She’s been Freddy Krueger’d and a half.

00:56:54 Elliott Host She’s like holding her innards in with her arm, basically.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:56:57 Stuart Host Yeah. So they think they got the jump on her and Reyes instead traps them in force bubbles, which look terrible.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

This is a terrible effect.

*[Dan laughs.]*

They are in like glowing, like... *Star Trek* bubbles. And she’s slowly smushing Dani and smushing them all in these bubbles while giving some kind of a speech about how—I dunno—like they’re too powerful to live or something and they should’ve been more respectful or something.

00:57:27 Elliott Host Now I wanna—I wanna briefly defend not these scene or the bubbles, which do look terrible, but the character of Cecilia Reyes. In the comic books, what sets her apart from the others is she is a good person who does not wanna be a superhero and just wants to be a doctor. And so I felt like they were really slandering this character by making her so incredibly evil. When in the comics, she



is maybe the most reasonable character in the entire Marvel universe. She's like, "Okay, I can make force fields, but like I can probably help people more by being a trauma surgeon—"

[Dan laughs.]

00:57:59	Arnie	Guest	"—than by fighting Mr. Sinister," who gets hinted at in this movie but we never actually see him. Maybe they wanted to use her because they're like, "We need at least one superpower that we can actually depict in this movie." Because every other—even like... even werewolf transformation—like they can't depict almost any of the powers in this movie very well. Which is one of the bigger problems, I think.
00:58:17	Stuart	Host	Yeah. I mean, I don't know if it's because they chose characters that are hard—like, I don't know if they chose Illyana Rasputin—if the script originally had like Shadowcat or something, that's why Lockheed's there? But then they're like, "Oh, we got Anna Taylor-Joy. She'd be perfect for this role." I dunno.
00:58:32	Dan	Host	"She does such a great Russian accent!"
[All laugh.]			
00:58:35	Elliott	Host	"Her resume says 'Does Russian accents,' so this is perfect! Do we need to hear the accent first to try it out?" "No, no, no! She's great! Did you see <i>Queen's Gambit</i> ? It's not out yet, but I saw an early cut of it. It's fantastic." And then she gets on set and she's like, [with poor Russian accent] "Y'all, this is my accent." And they're like, "Oh, boy. Oh."
00:58:50	Stuart	Host	Eeee! Okay. So—
00:58:53	Elliott	Host	She's great in <i>Emma</i> dot. She'll be great in this!
00:58:57	Dan	Host	Again, great actor. [Laughs.] Make it clear.
00:58:59	Elliott	Host	She's really good. She's really good in lots of stuff. She was great in <i>The Witch</i> . Like, she's really good in lots of stuff. But this accent does not—
00:59:05	Dan	Host	<i>Thoroughbreds</i> . Very good.
00:59:07	Stuart	Host	And yeah. And this <i>Spilt/Glass</i> -iverse, right?
00:59:11	Dan	Host	Yeah.
00:59:13	Dan	Host	Splass-iverse.
00:59:14	Stuart	Host	Yeah. So Reyes has 'em in force bubbles. She's slowly smushing 'em. And then—uh-oh! What's that? There's snow outside? It sounds like a wind? Uh-oh! The wall gets ripped open and there's a giant demon bear there. And the demon bear totally scarfs down Reyes just like in <i>Deep Blue Sea</i> . It's awesome.
[Multiple people laugh.]			
00:59:32	Elliott	Host	[Through laughter] It is just like in <i>Deep Blue Sea</i> ! Yeah!
[Dan laughs.]			
00:59:35	Dan	Host	Can we talk a little—let's talk a little bit about this demon bear. So there are a few things I—
00:59:38	Elliott	Host	No, Dan. Let's not. Let's talk about Muppets again.
[Dan laughs.]			
00:59:41	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> Well Dan, it—the thing is, is that everybody has two bears living inside them. [Laughs.]

**Dan:** I'd be happy with either.

00:59:47 Arnie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I know this is meant to be up to the audience interpretation, but do we think that's a good bear or a bad bear?

00:59:54 Elliott Host  
00:59:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk Now I think it's—  
**Stuart:** *[Through laughter]* That's a good point!

00:59:56 Elliott Host  
00:59:59 Dan Host  
01:00:00 Elliott Host  
**Elliott:** It's—that's a good question!  
'Cause it is a bad bear who becomes kind of a good bear.  
Yeah.  
Well it's—well she says—she also—is it here or is it later she says that the two bears—you decide what you feed them. That's the empowering message of the movie, is you can feed the bad bear with your fears and your hatred or you can feed the good bear with love. And that's the one—the one that gets stronger is the one that you feed. So maybe she feeds it a bunch of love? And that's why it turns into a good bear? Maybe there's two bears—no—  
She feeds it a doctor!

01:00:17 Arnie Guest  
01:00:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
01:00:21 Elliott Host  
**Stuart and Elliott:** That's true!  
A bad doctor, so it makes it into a good bear? This is confusing. I guess in every bear there are two bears. A good bear and a bad bear.

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:00:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
And depending on which one is—I guess—  
**Dan:** Oh, boy. Oh, god. Oh!

01:00:34 Elliott Host  
01:00:36 Dan Host  
01:00:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Elliott:** —getting its tummy scratched at the moment, that's how the bear goes—  
Dan, it's all bears, all the way down. Everything's got two bears in it.  
God. I'm staring into the void and it's staring back!  
**Dan:** No, what I wanted to say was— *[Laughs.]* Yup.

01:00:44 Stuart Host  
**Elliott:** Mm-hm. When you stare into the abears, the abears also stare into you. *[Laughs.]*  
Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's what my buddy Werner Herzog says. He says, *[with German accent]* "Jawohl, there's two bears in every body."

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:00:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
"A little bear and a big bear. One is good—"  
**Arnie:** Stuart, I think you're ready to be a character in this movie.

**Stuart:** "—one is bad."

01:00:58 Elliott Host  
01:01:00 Stuart Host  
**Elliott:** *[With German accent]* "And in one bear there's two people!"  
"That's the bear from *Grizzly Man!*"  
*[With German accent]* "Jawohl! Yeah, yeah, it's me! Werner Herzog!" *[Laughs.]*

01:01:06 Dan Host  
*[With German accent]* "My power is a secret."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:01:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah. *[German accent]* “It’s me, Werner Herzog, and we’re going to be checking out the ten hottest spring break beaches today on E’s hottest spring break beaches!”

01:01:17 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Ohh, I’m a sneaky dude!  
“Hosted by me, Werner Herzog!”

01:01:20 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
So Dani at this point is passed out and the team is left with this—  
01:01:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —fucking demon bear.

01:01:25 Dan Host **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* I never said what I—  
I wanted to talk about this bear a bit. Number one, I genuinely like the look of this bear. I like the demon eyes. I like the way the fur kind of like coils into smoke like it gets indistinct on the edges? But I do think that there’s a weird thing that movies always do, which is they like... y’know, put a little too much sugar in the sauce or something? Like it doesn’t—I think this bear would’ve been much more scary if it was just maybe slightly bigger than a real grizzly bear and just a little more like... just a solid thing that a human mind, y’know, has some sort of familiarity with it? ‘Cause when it’s this big—albeit cool-looking—bear, I’m just like, “Okay, well this is CGI and if it was a little more like... fantastic but down-to-earth I would’ve been a lot more frightened by it.”

01:02:22 Elliott Host Oh, see I have to disagree with you there. Because I think—I like this bear a lot, but I do think they err on the side of making it look too much like a real bear. And I wish it had more of that Bill Sincavage feel of being kind of like semi-abstract and scratchy and hard to wrap your mind around. But—

01:02:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —different bears for different cares!

01:02:38 Dan Host **Dan:** That’s a very good point, too.  
No, no, Elliott—Elliott, I think you make a good point and I think maybe the problem is it’s neither fish nor fowl. Like it should’ve gone one way or the other.

01:02:46 Arnie Guest They show some of the original drawings—or at least recreations of them—during the credits, as if to say, like, “See? This could work!”

01:02:54 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah. And Bill Sincavage did the art during the credits, too. All the character art.

01:03:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah. He was surprisingly—surprisingly involved, yeah.

**Arnie:** Oh, that—yeah. I wasn’t sure, yeah.

01:03:03 Stuart Host **Dan:** Ooh.  
Yeah. Give that man money, please. So. Dani’s passed out and of course she’s passed out at the party and she invited this fucking demon bear that everyone else has to deal with.

*[Dan laughs.]*

So they spirit Dani away. Rahne takes her along over to the—she takes Dani into the abandoned church. Illyana decides, “Hey, it’s time for me to use my powers. I’m magical.” So she pulls out her soul sword and starts flipping around. Jumping. Flipping. Cutting at

the bear. Sam tries to help. He starts blasting. Berto eventually decides to use his powers and he burns his clothes off and then he briefly fights the bear before getting smushed. And it's great! They all get to use their powers. They all kinda come together. And then Dani eventually wakes up and calms down the demon bear and pats its nose. The end of the movie. *[Laughs.]*

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:04:00	Dan	Host	And I guess everything's forgiven. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:04:05	Elliott	Host	Well what are they gonna—take her to Bear Court? Like I don't understand.
01:04:07	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> Well she even apologizes, right? She's like, "I'm sorry I brought this demon bear."
01:04:11	Stuart	Host	<b>Dan:</b> No. It just—I know. It just seems weird. And they're like, "No. You freed us with this demon bear." And she's like, "I guess I did!" And then they find Dr. Reyes's chunky heel covered in blood. So they're like—
01:04:21	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> "She's totally dead. There's no way." <b>Arnie:</b> <u>Full</u> of blood! Not just covered! Full—like, pours blood out of it!
01:04:27	Elliott	Host	<b>Elliott:</b> The idea that they're like—"Well we saw her swallowed whole by a bear. Is she dead? Here's her shoe! That clinches it! She must be!" <i>[Laughs.]</i> "There's no other way for her shoe to be removed from her foot other than death." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:04:36	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> "It's a real red—it's a real ruby slippers type situation!"
01:04:39	Dan	Host	<b>Dan:</b> It's either— <i>[Laughs.]</i> It's either her shoe or it's the shoe of the evil stepsisters—the original version of <i>Cinderella</i> . I don't know. All I know is there's blood in a shoe.
01:04:49	Elliott	Host	In this chunky shoe. <i>[With German accent]</i> "Hi, I'm Werner Hershoe! Welcome down to Werner Herzog's Hershoes! Where you can find the best in lady's shoes! And if you stare into the shoe you'll see the total emptiness of the cosmos. We live in a random universe with no god in charge, but I'm in charge of getting you the best shoes at Werner Hershoes!"
01:05:08	Dan	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> <i>[With German accent]</i> "Now do not confuse this with Werner Herzog's <u>Horseshoes</u> , which is a separate venture of mine."
01:05:15	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Dan:</b> "You want it for horses or luck?"
01:05:18	Elliott	Host	<b>Elliott:</b> "That's a—that's a—" "It's a horseshoe range attached to a bar. It's a kind of bar game, is horseshoes. You're throwing those—and don't—and please do not confuse it with Werner Herzog's <i>In Her Shoes</i> , my shot-for-shot remake of the film <i>In Her Shoes</i> ." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:05:31	Stuart	Host	<i>[Dan laughs.]</i> Mm-hm. Arnie, do you have any fun accents you like to do?
01:05:34	Arnie	Guest	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> No, but I would just like to let the listener know that it's extra enjoyable to get to actually watch these moments, because it's—I

enjoy watching Stuart kind of—you can tell he's like, "I'm waiting this one out."

*[Stuart laughs.]*

01:05:45	Elliott	Host	Yeah. <i>[With German accent]</i> Anyway, I'm supposed to be telling you about Cancun. Here in Cancun we're having the hottest ladies and the hunkiest guys here on spring break. Let's go on to Miami Beach! Miami Beach is famous for its spring break parties, and I'm enjoying them all. Anyway, we've got eight more beaches to get to! I'm Werner Herzog."
01:06:02	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> Oh wow. So—
01:06:05	Stuart	Host	<b>Dan:</b> Oh god. Okay. Now our team—now they're free. They kind of set off down the road and their only clue is that Reyes was working for the Essex Corporation—of course a reference to—is it Nathaniel Essex?
01:06:19	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> Mr. Sinister? Yeah.
01:06:22	Stuart	Host	<b>Elliott:</b> Nathaniel Essex, yes. Mr. Sinister. So that was a tease. Apparently John Hamm was even cast to play Mr. Sinister. What a shame. Wow. What a great character.
01:06:30	Dan	Host	Okay. Well, that's the end of <i>The New Mutants</i> . So we should do our Final Judgments, whether this is a good-bad movie, a bad-bad movie, or a movie we kinda liked. I—
01:06:42	Arnie	Guest	Before—I'm sorry. Before we make the judgments, can I ask—is this the only superhero movie where at the end the superheroes are the only characters alive?
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>  And in fact every other character of the movie is dead at the hands of those superheroes?
01:06:56	Stuart	Host	<i>[All laugh.]</i> Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's a good question.
01:06:58	Elliott	Host	<i>[Dan laughs.]</i> That is a good question. It's—
01:06:59	Arnie	Guest	Every character you ever see in the past or present has been killed by the superheroes except, I guess, for Buffy the Vampire Slayer on TV.
01:07:08	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> <b>Stuart and Dan:</b> Yeah.
01:07:09	Dan	Host	Wow.
01:07:11	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> That's a good point.
01:07:13	Elliott	Host	<b>Elliott:</b> Trying to remember. Let's see— <i>The Incredibles</i> ? No.
01:07:15	Stuart	Host	<i>Incredibles 2</i> ? No.
01:07:18	Elliott	Host	<i>Spider-man 2</i> ? No.
01:07:21	Dan	Host	<i>Superman 4</i> ? No. Uh... yeah. So this movie—when we were watching it earlier today, Audrey said a line that I had to write down, which is, "I feel like I've hated better movies." Which is not to say that like—that is not saying, "Oh, this is below hatred." It's more that like... there are films that have inspired an emotional reaction? Like, a negative

one? That are better than this? Like the fact that this is just kind of... there. Like, I don't dislike this movie, but there's not... like, it's almost like everything is in perfect balance, good and bad, such as to make it nothing.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:08:03 Elliott Host "Everything is in perfect balance, raves Dan McCoy, of *The New Mutants*."

01:08:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** But I mean, we've—

**Stuart:** Both bears are the same size!

[Elliott laughs.]

01:08:10 Dan Host I mean like, if I was pressed— [Laughs.]

01:08:14 Elliott Host "There are two bears in this movie: great, and better!"

01:08:17 Dan Host If I was pressed to put this into one of our bullshit categories, I guess the closest one is kinda liked it 'cause I like this kind of stuff? And nothing in it like... made me mad and it's of that thing that we've invoked a lot of times where, like, "Oh, if you're dozing on the couch this would be a great way to spend your time." But what do you guys have to say?

01:08:40 Elliott Host No, I would also call this a movie I kind of like, just because it's fine. Like, I didn't—it's not terrible even though it's—we made fun of it a sure bunch. But it's like not really scary for a horror movie; it's not really exciting for a superhero movie; and again I'd be curious to have somebody just watch it with somebody who doesn't know the *New Mutants* and it's like, "Why is this happening? Who are these people?" But it's not terrible. It's just kinda like, "Alright." Like in a world where there are 40 superhero movies a year, it seems, coming out? There's room for a mediocre superhero movie like this. Yeah.

01:09:12 Dan Host

01:09:14 Stuart Host Yeah. I mean, it's kinda tough. Like I obviously—like, I like *The Breakfast Club*. I like *The Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*.

[Elliott laughs.]

But—and I feel like this movie obviously tries to reference those and it tries to reference various coming-of-age stuff and it... I dunno. Like I feel like it doesn't do—I mean, as you said, it's not really scary. And the attempt to like... do coming-of-age—like a coming-of-age story or coming into your powers has been done so many times and so much—

01:09:48 Dan Host

Or coming into bears.

01:09:49 Stuart Host

Yeah. Or coming into bears! But like... I mean—

[Dan laughs.]

—after seeing *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*—

01:09:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Arnie:** Wait, hold on. I'm so sorry. I gotta stop.

**Stuart:** —where we see Miles—

01:09:58 Arnie Guest Dan, it's the other way around. It's not coming into bears. [Through laughter] It's the other—that's gross!

01:10:02 Dan Host

Good things come in bears!

01:10:04 Elliott Host

No, no, it's getting out of bears. You wanna get outta that bear.

01:10:09 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 01:10:11 Dan Host Yeah. You wanna get all the cum outta that bear.  
*[Through laughter]* It is “good things come in bears.” *[Laughs.]* Oh, okay.

01:10:17 Stuart Host *[Elliott laughs.]*  
 But like—with something like *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, where we see Miles Morales take his leap of faith—and it actually elicits—a movie that actually elicits an emotional response, it feels—to see the warmed-over, warmed-over, warmed-over version of that is pretty lame. So I dunno. I feel like I’d say bad-bad, just ‘cause... like, it just washed over me and is going to be forgotten.

01:10:44 Arnie Guest I mean, I sorta—I did kind of like it. It was weird, though. I think I would almost—like, is there’s a category that’s bad-good? Where it’s like not bad enough to be entertaining—like, it’s almost worse than being good-bad? Because there just wasn’t enough of the sort of joy of how bad it was? And mostly what pulled me through was being like... hypothetically I like a lot of this stuff. But it’s just—

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:11:16 Stuart Host —the movie is almost as empty as that weird hospital. It’s just like there’s not enough in it.  
 Yeah. Not enough bears. The—yeah. Both bears are too small!

*[Someone laughs.]*

Yeah. I mean, I think—I actually—I feel like, Arnie, you have done this podcast a service. Because we have been dancing around this idea for fucking years. The idea of a movie that is well-made enough but is clearly bad. Like, a bad-good movie.

*[Arnie laughs.]*

01:11:44 Elliott Host Like, it’s not actually interesting enough to be a good-bad. I don’t know.  
 Yeah. No, no. It’s—the problem is not the production or the logic or anything like that. It’s just a certain soullessness that comes with being sent back by the studio to remake the movie several times.

01:11:55 Dan Host Yeah. And I like the way Arnie put it, because while watching it I did invoke *[through laughter]* a philosophy that we’ve espoused on the show a few times, which is, “If this movie was a better movie, this movie would be good.” *[Laughs.]*

*[All laugh.]*

01:12:11 Stuart Host Like...  
 Yeah. It’s a good point.

01:12:12 Arnie Guest So are you saying that I’m kind of like the Dani of this podcast? The stranger who comes in and...

01:12:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Mm-hm.

**Dan:** Mmm. Sets us free.

**Arnie:** Sort of brings something new out of everybody?

01:12:22 Stuart Host Torments us with our past traumas?  
01:12:23 Arnie Guest Mm-hm!  
01:12:24 Elliott Host Yeah. And eats a doctor? Sure.  
01:12:26 Music Music Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.  
01:12:31 Promo Clip **Music:** Cheerful, “Linus and Lucy”-style piano music plays in background.

**Jackie Kashian:** I’m going first! It’s me, Jackie Kashian!

**Laurie Kilmartin:** Man! She’s always this bossy!

*[All laugh.]*

**Laurie:** Hi. I’m Laurie Kilmartin. We’re a bunch of standup comics and we’ve been doing comedy like sixty years total.

*[Jackie laughs.]*

**Jackie:** Both of us. But we look amazing. And—

*[Kyle laughs.]*

**Jackie:** It’s all working out. We drop every Monday on MaxFun and it’s called *The Jackie and Laurie Show*. And you could listen to it and learn about comedy and learn about anger management and all the things.

**Laurie:** And Jackie is married but childless and I’m unmarried but child-full. So together—

*[Jackie laughs.]*

**Laurie:** —we make—

**Jackie and Laurie:** —one complete woman.

**Kyle:** *[Through laughter]* Is that just how it’s gonna end? *[Laughs.]*

**Jackie:** Yeah! Yeah! And we try to make Kyle laugh just like that and say “Oh my god” every episode.

**Kyle:** It’s a good job. *Jackie and Laurie Show*. Mondays, only on Maximum Fun.

*[Music ends.]*

01:13:22 Promo Clip **James Arthur:** Hi, I’m James, host of *Minority Korner*, which is a—  
?

**Speaker 1:** Podcast that’s all about intersectionality. It’s hosted by James with a guest host every week.

**Speaker 2:** Discussing all sorts of wonderful issues; nerdy and political.

**Speaker 3:** Pop culture—



**Speaker 1:** Black, queer feminism.

**Speaker 4:** Race. Sexuality.

**Speaker 5:** News.

**Speaker 6:** You're gonna learn your history. There's self-empowerment. And it's told by what feels like your best friend.

**Speaker 2:** Why should someone listen to *Minority Korner*?

**Speaker 7:** Why not?

**Speaker 8:** Oh my god. Free stuff.

**James:** There's not free stuff.

**Speaker 1:** The listeners of *Minority Korner* will enjoy some necessary lols, but mainly a look at what's happening in our world through a colorful lens.

**Speaker 2:** People will get the perspective of... marginalized communities.

**Speaker 1:** I feel heard. I feel seen.

**Speaker 9:** Like you said, you need to understand how to be more proactive in your community? And this is a great way to get started.

**James:** Join us every Friday on MaxFun, or wherever you get your podcast.

**Multiple speakers:** *Minority Korner!* Because together, we're the majority.

01:14:16 Dan Promo

Hey, you know what? *The Flop House* is sponsored in part by Express VPN. When you use the bathroom, you always close the door behind you. Right? You don't want—  
Mmmm.

01:14:26 Stuart Promo

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:14:28 Dan Promo

—a random passer-by looking in on you. So why would you let people look in on you when you go online? Using the internet without Express VPN is like going to the bathroom and not closing the door. Now this is some interesting ad copy. Stuart, do you—do you always close the bathroom door? You seemed to make a noise.

01:14:46 Stuart Promo

If I close the bathroom door my cats will yell at me? So I have to leave it open so they can come in and brush up against my—  
Your meaty thighs.

01:14:56 Dan Promo

01:14:57 Stuart Promo

My legs. Yeah. *[Laughs.]* My meaty thighs, yeah.

01:14:59 Elliott Promo

I have the same issue with my children, but I keep that door closed and I just let them scratch at it and go, "Daddy! Daddy! But we wanna see you peeing!"

*[Dan laughs.]*

And I say, "No thank you!"

01:15:09	Stuart	Promo	Uh-huh. <i>[Laughs.]</i> They hurl themselves against it like so many assaulters on <i>Precinct 13</i> .
01:15:14	Crosstalk	Promo	<b>Dan and Elliott:</b> Yeah.
			<b>Dan:</b> But I think we can all agree—
01:15:17	Dan	Promo	<b>Elliott:</b> Exactly. —that we would <u>prefer</u> privacy. So why not have privacy with your Express VPN? Did you know that your internet service provider—like Comcast or Verizon—knows every single website you visit and can sell this info to ad companies? Express VPN creates a secure, encrypted tunnel between your device and the internet so that your online activity can't be seen by anyone. It works on phones, laptops, even routers. So everyone who shares your WiFi can still be protected, even if they don't have Express VPN. So if you believe your online activity is <u>your</u> business, secure yourself by visiting <a href="https://ExpressVPN.com/flop">ExpressVPN.com/flop</a> today. Use our link E-X-P-R-E-S-S-V-P-N.com/flop and you can get an extra three months free. That's <a href="https://ExpressVPN.com/flop">ExpressVPN.com/flop</a> .
01:16:16	Elliott	Promo	Sounds great! I think that people should do that. I have an ad I'd like to talk about. Guys? We're also sponsored in part by Storyblocks. Now, more than ever, storytellers and content creators—same thing, in my opinion—are challenged with producing more video content at a higher quality than ever before! That's true! The standards are higher and you gotta keep up with 'em. Keep up with that growing demand for modern video content without sacrificing your vision with stock media from Storyblocks. What's Storyblocks? Well it's dedicated to being the world's best royalty-free stock media subscription service. Their library is always growing. It has over one million high-quality stock assets including 4k/HD footage, after-effects, <u>and</u> premier pro templates, music, images, sound effects, and more. They've got affordable subscription plans and tools, and with their unlimited, all-access plan—that's the Storyblocks unlimited, all-access plan—you get unlimited downloads of everything in their library. And even if your subscription ends? You get to keep the stuff you downloaded. It doesn't disappear. Like out of magic, as if Marty McFly's parents didn't get together. It doesn't disappear and fade away. Now I love stock footage. I'm very excited about being able to put things together for Storyblocks stock media. Dan, you actually made something for our upcoming live show using Storyblocks. And how was the experience? Was it super smooth? 'Cause it seemed to take you no time.
01:17:33	Dan	Promo	It was actually very smooth. You can search through their library. You can find what you want. They have many different variations on basically anything you can think of, and you just download it straight. Use it. It looks beautiful.
01:17:47	Elliott	Promo	That's great. You'll see the results in our live show! More about that live show in a little bit. But first—why not go to Storyblocks? Explore their library and subscribe today at <a href="https://Storyblocks.com/flop">Storyblocks.com/flop</a> . That's <a href="https://Storyblocks.com/flop">Storyblocks.com/flop</a> .
01:18:02	Stuart	Promo	And I got some <i>[announcer voice]</i> J-J-J-J-J-J-Jumbotronnnns! That's right!

*[Dan laughs.]*

Are you at home right now? Unable to deal with the existential dread of daily life? Well—then you’re probably on Netflix. But there’s just so much there and so little time. Well? On every day in 2021, [NetflixAndChillYear.com](http://NetflixAndChillYear.com) will go through every Netflix original movie and talk about what’s great about it, what’s weird about it, and what it’s all about. So—go to [NetflixAndChillYear.com](http://NetflixAndChillYear.com) or—if you want a daily email full of Netflix goodness—go to [NetflixAndChillYear.substack.com](http://NetflixAndChillYear.substack.com). That’s right! Visit [NetflixAndChillYear.com](http://NetflixAndChillYear.com) or subscribe at [NetflixAndChillYear.substack.com](http://NetflixAndChillYear.substack.com).

I got a second Jumbotron! While my mouth gets used to talking again.

01:19:07 Crosstalk Promo

**Dan:** Mm-hm. *[Laughs.]*

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:19:14 Dan Promo

**Stuart:** There we go!

01:19:17 Stuart Promo

Did you have to do like a hard reboot, or? What was that? Yep! Ivan! Ivan! Ivan! Vanya! Bubbeleh! You can’t just Venmo me 69.69 on Christmas Day as a present. That’s not the Christmas spirit! Now you have to listen to the Peaches tell you how much I love you and have Stuart apologize on my behalf for what a sloppy gamemaster I can be. Sorry, duuuuuuuuude! Ra-row! Yeah. Yeah!

01:19:46 Dan Promo

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:19:48 Stuart Promo

Yep. That’s it. That’s the message.

01:19:50 Elliott Promo

Yeah. Dan cosigns on that message.

*[Dan laughs.]*

Okay, guys. I mentioned a live show earlier. Let’s talk briefly about that. And I mentioned it even earlier before that. That’s right—Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9PM Eastern, 6PM Pacific, we are gonna be doing our first virtual Zoom live show of the year. You’ll be able to watch it—what—through our YouTube page or something? I don’t remember. Anyway.

*[Dan and Stuart laugh.]*

01:20:13 Crosstalk Promo

**Dan:** No. You’ll get a link.

01:20:16 Elliott Promo

**Stuart:** No. Absolutely not.

All the information will be with you when you get the tickets. So we’re gonna be talking about the movie *Teen Wolf*. That’s right—everyone’s favorite movie about a basketball-playing werewolf. Tell me one you like more. Tell me a basketball-playing werewolf movie that you like more! I defy it!

01:20:30 Crosstalk Promo

**Stuart:** Doesn’t exist.

01:20:31 Elliott Promo

**Elliott:** We’re gonna have—  
—an in-depth—but not too long—discussion of the movie. Where each gonna give original presentations. Will mine have more monster content? You better believe it! There’s gonna be an audience Q&A section and much more. I already told you Dan’s been messing around with Storyblocks footage making something

for the show! The price? Only \$10! And don't worry. If you're not available Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9PM Eastern/6PM Pacific because you have some other thing going on in your life other than wanting to hear three old friends of yours talking about a teenage wolf, that's okay. The show is gonna be up for you archived for one week after the event. That's right! Until Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, you'll be able to just watch that video. Just light it up and let it roll and then watch it up and watch it down. Just go to [TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com](http://TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com). Don't worry about the "www." Just go to [TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com](http://TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com). Because Dan, was there an issue of some kind with internet URL language that you want to tell people about?

01:21:23 Dan Promo

Uh, yeah, yeah. I'm sorry. The last episode I mentioned that—I said that if you don't put the "http" part in... it would go to it. Whereas—or if you did put it in, it wouldn't go to it. That is incorrect. Someone had tweeted at me that there was a problem. I misremembered. The problem is, do not put the "www" in. That will take you to a dead link. If you do not put it in, it works. I have no idea why the modern internet browser cannot figure that out for you? But in the absence of a smarter one, don't put the "www" in.

01:22:01 Elliott Promo

Yeah. Don't confuse your dumb, stupid internet browser. Just go to [TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com](http://TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com) and get ready to laugh as we three guys—Dan McCoy, Stuart Wellington, and—of course—America's rascal, Elliott Kalan, talk about the movie that catapulted Michael J. Fox to lycanthropic stardom. That's *Teen Wolf*—

*[Dan laughs.]*

—featuring the Flop House guys, Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9PM Eastern/6PM Pacific. Other time zones, please do the math. I do not know what time it will be in the other time zones. That's [TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com](http://TheFlopHouse.simpletix.com)! Only \$10! Just go ahead and do it! Just come and join us!

01:22:37 Dan Host

Well now let's move on to Letters from Listeners. Listeners have things to say, too. We've been hogging the microphone. What's going on in their minds?

*[Stuart laughs.]*

01:22:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott? *[Laughs.]* You don't have—you don't have the letters.

**Stuart:** Yeah, he doesn't have the letters!

**Dan:** Don't know why—don't know why I tried to throw it to you.

01:22:54 Elliott Host

**Elliott:** Yeah. What—I mean, okay.

If you ask for it then *[singing]* Ba-da-da-dadadada. Bad-da-dada-dadada! Da-da-da-da! Da-da-da-da! Da-da-da-da! It's your turn! Listeners! It's your turn to make your voice heard! You've been listening to us yakking around, talking about mutants and all that stuff and now it's your turn! Tell us what's on your mind, listeners! Tell us to be more kind, listeners! Or tell us to have Richard Kind on this show, listeners! That's "kind"! I rhymed it with "kind!" That's right, listeners! Write in and tell us what you've got to sayyyy! That's right, listeners! Write in and tell us whatever you want! Whatever you may! Listeners, it's your turn! Listeners, don't be burned! 'Cause listeners this is your chance to be the starrrrrrs! Of *The Flop*

*Hououououse!* Listeners! Hey, listeners! Don't let this chance pass you up!

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:23:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Hey look—  
**Stuart:** Oh wow, he's still going.

**Elliott:** —this is your time to get the best! Hey, listeners, this is the time—

**Dan:** Did Jim Steinman write this?

01:24:02 Elliott Host

*[Elliott laughs.]*  
To be the ones with the spotlight on you! Ah! It burns your eyes a little! That's okay! 'Cause now you're the star of the dayyyy! Listeners, write on in! And tell us what you wanna say—to us! At *The Flop House*. *[Regular voice]* Featuring Arnie Niekamp. But it's Arnie Knee-camp, really.

01:24:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk

*[All laugh.]*  
**Dan:** Thank you.

01:24:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Arnie:** Alright. No, you got the name right.  
**Arnie:** You gotta start the song over. Sorry, everybody! We gotta get a clean take of that!

**Dan:** Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no! No, no, no! No! No! No!

01:24:28 Dan Host

**Elliott:** Okay. *[Singing]* Ba-da-da-dadadada! Da-da-da-dadada!  
No! This was—this first letter is from Elizabeth, last name withheld. Who writes—

01:24:32 Elliott Host  
01:24:33 Dan Host

Elizabeth Montgomery.  
“Hi, Peaches. Your mini about prequels reminded me of an odd prequel-watching experience I had. My old job used to take the whole office to the movies every summer. We would go to an 8AM screening. They bought us popcorn, soda, and candy for breakfast, and we went to work afterwards. This was called—without irony—a morale event.” I dunno.

01:24:57 Elliott Host

**Dan:** That sounds good to me. I guess the 8AM...

01:24:59 Elliott Host  
01:25:01 Dan Host

**Elliott:** That sounds great. Yeah. What do they work for—a kid-based company?  
A company run by kids? 'Cause that sounds amazing!  
Yeah. But anyway. Elizabeth goes on to say, “The first summer I worked there we went to see *X-Men: First Class*. I'd never seen any X-Men movies and knew nothing about them, but figured since it was a prequel I wouldn't be confused. I enjoyed the movie thoroughly and was probably alone in the audience in finding Magneto's heel-turn to be a shocking betrayal.”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

“To this day I have never watched another X-Men movie because all I want from the franchise is for Charles and Magneto to be best friends. Have any of you ever had a similar experience being

blindsided by a plot twist that you really should have seen coming? Thanks for all the laughs! Elizabeth, last name withheld.” Y’know, this is getting— *[Laughs.]* This is an even dumber one than usual, but I remember—

01:25:51 Stuart Host What, the letter? I thought it was perfectly great!

01:25:54 Dan Host No, no, no! *[Laughs.]* No! What I’m about—

01:25:55 Elliott Host How rude, Daniel!

01:25:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** *[Singing]* Hey, there listener! Elizabeth, don’t take it personal! Dan’s just working through some things! And I am gonna sing about how much we love that you wrote in to us!

**Dan:** *[Through laughter]* No! No! God! Oh. No. No.

**Stuart:** And also—and also—

01:26:06 Dan Host I—no. I was gonna— *[Laughs.]* I was saying what I was about to say was gonna be dumb.

01:26:11 Elliott Host Yeah! You just insulted a listener! That was dumb!

01:26:13 Stuart Host Super dumb.

01:26:14 Dan Host Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Okay. Well what it was was—

01:26:17 Stuart Host Arnie looks concerned over there. He’s like, “I can’t believe—what a shitshow operation they’re running over here!”

01:26:21 Elliott Host You’re getting the classic Niekamp glare.

01:26:24 Dan Host Okay. So I remember—I watched Tim Burton’s movie of *Sweeney Todd*. Which I had—like—so I watched it. It was the first version of *Sweeney Todd* that I ever saw. Much later I became like a bit of a... a fanatic. Watching three different recorded versions and one live. But when I revisited the Burton movie, like, years later? Before I had seen it again? I found myself involved in it and I totally forgot—until like right before *[through laughter]* he kills the beggarwoman—that it’s his wife? And I have no idea—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—how like the most obvious twist! But also like I’d *[through laughter]* seen the movie before. And somehow my brain had like erased all that so I could enjoy it yet again and be like, “No, no, Sweeney! No! No!”

*[Elliott laughs.]*

I guess—spoiler alert.

01:27:30 Elliott Host Yeah. Spoiler alert for— *[Laughs.]*

01:27:31 Stuart Host I mean, I feel like “spoiler alert” for a lot of what we’ll talk about here, right? If we’re talking about twists?

01:27:36 Elliott Host I mean, I couldn’t think of any particular twists that have blindsided me although I’m sure there are. But I often am the guy who—when it looks like the heroes are about to win—I’m like, “Great! Movie’s almost over!” And then it turns out that this is the part where the heroes almost win and then lose and then you have the real climax a little bit later? And every time I’m like, “Oh. There’s more movie. Oh, okay. Never mind, then.”

01:27:56 Arnie Guest You hate third acts, it sounds like!

01:27:58 Elliott Host It’s more I want shorter second acts. I don’t like the second-act fake-out. I’d rather just be like, “Guys, give me a story. Let’s do it.” Unless it’s like a really good fake-out and then a really good third act. But there’s a lot of movies where there’s a kind of satisfying

fight scene and I'm like, "Great! Thank you, movie!" And then it goes on to a big, like, explosions and glowy things ending. And I don't need that.

01:28:19 Dan Host Yeah. It's more like there's a fourth act. And the thing is, like... I agree with you overall? I want these movies to be more streamlined? But then sometimes I will see one that I like and will be a little disappointed that that fourth act isn't there just because my brain has been trained by other, worse movies to expect it.

01:28:40 Elliott Host Yeah. I guess—there's a movie I recommended a few episodes ago and Dan recommended hundreds of episodes ago called *The Silent Partner*. And there's a character in that who's literally like, "Oh, the bad guy's gonna kill us. Oh, he won't stand for this. He's gonna kill us." And then that character gets murdered. And I was like, "Uh! This is—I did—I was not sure that was gonna happen and it's so much more gruesome than I expected it to be!" So.

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:29:04 Stuart Host So that was me kinda getting surprised by a twist. What about you guys? You like twists, right? I'm usually surprised by 'em. I feel like—I think it's because I'm a noncreative. But I'm not like—

*[Dan laughs.]*

When I'm enjoying a movie or something I'm not like... my brain doesn't click over into like how this was made or like what I would do in this situation? But I will say... I was quite surprised by the twist. I was watching—I was in the theater watching a midnight screening on opening night of *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*. And man, I'm like halfway through my popcorn and I'm like, "Man, this—the movie feels like it's wrapping up. But we still got Shelob to go, right?"

*[Elliott laughs.]*

And then those credits rolled and I'm like, "What?! Where's Shelob?" And then I like stand up and I start looking around like—"We've been duped!" So that was a twist that totally got me.

01:29:56 Arnie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]* You know when I saw *The Fellowship of the Ring* in the theater with my family, walking out my mother was like, "I can't believe that whole movie and they never even got where they were going."

*[All laugh.]*

01:30:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk I was like, "This is the first part of the book! There are sequels!" **Arnie:** And she says, "They're just trying to get your money."

**Elliott:** That was—that happened—

01:30:15 Elliott Host *[Stuart laughs.]* That happened to me with the fifth *Harry Potter* movie? I had only seen the first *Harry Potter* movie and then I went to see the fifth one and I was like, "Oh, boy! This is gonna be a big showdown with

Voldemort!” And then they just kind of leave? And I was like, “Oh, yeah. There’s more stuff that happens after this.”

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:30:28 Arnie Guest I fell for it.  
After seeing *The Princess Bride*, my mother—who is delightful—said, “That couldn’t happen.”

01:30:35 Elliott Host *[All laugh. Someone applauds.]*  
“There’s no way Fred Savage would sit through that story!”

01:30:39 Arnie Guest *[Dan laughs.]*  
My movie that really surprised me—it’s a pretty—obviously, it surprised a lot of people—I knew there was a twist and I actually saw it when it first opened. *The Sixth Sense*. But for some reason—it was the weirdest reason—that I was distracted. Because I just saw in the opening credits that Donny Wahlberg was in the movie—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—and somehow did not put together that the intruder or whatever at the beginning of the movie was Donny Wahlberg? Because I guess it didn’t look like him? And so the whole movie I’m using that kind of like movie logic—which is the thing that usually gives away what the ending is gonna be? And I’m so distracted being like, “Huh, it’s getting pretty late, but shit’s gonna get crazy when Donny Wahlberg shows up!”

01:31:21 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* Yeah! Yeah. Donny Wahlberg’s the Shelob of that movie!

01:31:26 Arnie Guest *[Through laughter]* Exactly.

01:31:28 Dan Host “Shit’s gonna get crazy when Donny Wahlberg *[through laughter]* shows up.”

01:31:30 Elliott Host I mean, that’s a good rule for life, too. For movies and for life.

01:31:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Arnie:** It’s true.

01:31:34 Dan Host **Stuart:** Yeah.

Uh, okay. Well the second and final letter is from Mitchell, last name withheld. Michell writes:

“You guys often play up how painful it is to watch these movies. And I get that you’re doing a bit. But do you ever sincerely regret making this a bad movie podcast? If you’d just made a good movie podcast instead, you coulda spent all this time watching good movies! Sincerely, Mitchell, last name withheld.”

01:32:00 Elliott Host Oh, sincerely, the voice in my head. All the time.

01:32:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*  
**Stuart:** Yeah. Uh, yeah. Send that fucking message back in time, dude!

01:32:10 Stuart Host **Dan:** Aw, come on.  
*Tenet* that shit back to me!



01:32:13 Dan Host *[All laugh.]*  
I was thinking about it. I—obviously it’s more pleasurable to watch a good movie. But in terms of like... the conversations we’ve had afterwards, like... I wouldn’t change anything, personally. I watch a lot of bad movies on my own recognizance, too, so maybe I’m just a glutton for it. But—

01:32:34 Stuart Host This conversation is very similar to the one we’re gonna have as we’re lying in our death beds, stuck in the same room, three old turds.

01:32:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[All laugh.]*  
**Elliott:** Well because we all die as old men recording this show.

01:32:51 Elliott Host **Dan:** All in the same bed. *[Inaudible]* style. Yeah.  
Dan will often send us texts and be like, “Hey, I had this Italian exploitation film on while I was working. And check out this crazy scene!” And I’m like, “Dan, you’re on your own time! Just like watch something that’s gonna be good!” *[Laughs.]*

01:33:02 Dan Host Yeah.

01:33:03 Elliott Host I think there is a—I enjoy watching good movies more? But I kind of enjoy talking about bad movies more.

01:33:10 Dan Host Yeah. Welp.

01:33:12 Stuart Host Arnie, do you have any podcast-based regrets?

01:33:15 Arnie Guest *[Elliott laughs.]*  
Y’know, Mitchell, thanks for asking. I would say—am I someone that also occasionally regrets the premise of my podcast? Sure!

01:33:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan and Stuart:** Yeah.

01:33:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I mean, it—eventually everything becomes an albatross!

01:33:31 Dan Host **Stuart:** Do you ever with that you were playing a crazy character? Do you uh—

01:33:33 Stuart Host Except for albatrosses. They decay.

01:33:34 Elliott Host Yeah. That’s true.  
Yeah. Eventually albatrosses become dirt, I guess. But.

*[Dan laughs.]*

But everything else turns into an albatross when it decays.  
*[Laughs.]*

01:33:40 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
Arnie, in your show, *Hello from the Magic Tavern*—what, do you have more albatross decomposition bits?

01:33:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I was gonna say that inside every bear there are two albatrosses. Yeah.

01:33:52 Dan Host **Dan:** No, no, Stuart. No, Stuart. You can continue being the—  
—stealth only pro on the program. *[Laughs.]*

01:33:55 Stuart Host Arnie, so on your show, *Hello from the Magic Tavern*, you are the only one who plays basically yourself. Do you ever regret that and wish that you were playing like a wackier character? Like a... I dunno. Like a Latka or something?

01:34:12 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*  
You mean Latka, the character from *Taxi*. Not the delicious food.

01:34:16 Stuart Host They're similar though, right?

01:34:18 Elliott Host Yeah. I mean, 'cause Andy Kaufman was also made out of fried potatoes. Yeah.

01:34:22 Arnie Guest Y'know, when it started I sort of regretted playing the straight man on the podcast because it seemed like everyone else got to have so much more fun? As the show goes on, though, the fact that like... we try to stay true—like, everything people say is canon and we've sort of tried to remember it? Y'know, my character has actually become kind of a weirdo anyway? All the weird things that people have just said about me? The thing I do, though, sometimes regret just playing myself? Like a fictional version of myself? I'm just sort of like, "Someday this is gonna... I'm gonna really look back and regret this." But eh. What are you gonna do.

01:35:00 Stuart Host Yeah. I mean, also your costume for live shows is pretty easy. Right?

01:35:04 Arnie Guest That is true. When Matt Young—who plays a wizard—is just sweating through a giant beard and thing and I have to literally I do look. I do have a costume. I do have one particular polo shirt that I have to change into before every show.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:35:23 Stuart Host But yeah. I'm glad that I don't have to put on anything more than that. I remember the one time I did—I was a guest on your live show and I decided to wear an inflatable Beholder costume. And I didn't realize that when I turned the fan off—because I thought the fan would get in the way of the mic—that the suit would deflate and that under the hot lights I would just be like a sweaty ball sack of a man.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:35:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk Yeah. That was a moment when I'm like, "I'm kinda glad *The Flop House* doesn't require me to wear costumes on stage."  
**Arnie:** That was so delightful.

01:35:50 Arnie Guest **Elliott:** Mm. Not yet!  
You were so great in that live show and I could not believe it when you showed up with that costume. 'Cause it was—it was so good. Also I know your parents were in the audience for that show, correct?

01:35:59 Stuart Host That was the first time my parents had come to any of my performances? And there was a point where somebody made me roll around onstage in this costume on a fox face? On a taxidermied fox face? It was pretty great. And then afterwards we ran out to meet the people who'd come out to see the show and I'm like, "Oh, I can't wait to see my parents!" My parents had already left.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:36:27 Dan Host They were in the car. *[Laughs.]* They could not face me.

01:36:32 Elliott Host Oh dear. Well. Let us move on.

01:36:34 Dan Host We have another segment, Dan. There's one final segment and that's one where we recommend films that we've seen recently that we've enjoyed. And I would like

to recommend a little movie called *Psycho Goreman*. Which—  
[Laughs.] Stars an up-and-coming young actor—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—named Stuart Wellington as Tubeman.

[Elliott laughs.]

Stuart's freaking out. [Laughs.] And this is a very funny, gory movie, as you might expect from the title. It's basically like, "What if these kids have a pet sort of cosmic evil sadist?" He's sort of like a space Pinhead almost. I don't know how you would describe him. He's just like, y'know, like an evil conqueror type. But with a tragic backstory. And they can control him. They've got—and they are just sort of... y'know, brat kids. [Laughs.] Everyone in the movie is sort of like... self-centered. [Laughs.] And—

01:37:37 Stuart Host  
01:37:39 Dan Host

Yeah. They're little sociopath kids.  
Yeah. So it's just fun. Y'know, someone who shouldn't have all that power having control over this evil creature that has all this power. And it's a very wacky situation but it's also weirdly played pretty straight, even though it's so silly? It strikes like a pretty good tone. I mean you can see like a Troma version of this, right? That would go way, like, campy and over the top. And this somehow has the most bullshit weird comic premise, but takes it somewhat seriously. So I really enjoyed it. And watch out for that Tubeman!

01:38:18 Stuart Host  
01:38:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
01:38:22 Elliott Host

He's going places!  
**Dan and Elliott:** Mm-hm.  
Straight into a bear.

[Dan laughs. Long pause.]

01:38:25 Dan Host  
01:38:28 Elliott Host  
01:38:30 Stuart Host

Uh, anyone else?  
Stuart, would you like to go?  
Yeah. I'll recommend something that's on Amazon Prime. Well before that, obviously, go watch *Psycho Goreman*. It's great and it does have me doing the voice of Tubeman. I'd also like to recommend a movie called *One Night in Miami*.... it is a movie directed by—it's the directorial debut, I think, of Regina King. And it is a fictional story of the very real friendship between Mohammad Ali, Malcom X, Sam Cooke, and Jim Brown. And it depicts one night of them basically just hanging out in Miami after a big fight. And it is adapted from a stage play and it kinda feels like that, but it does a really amazing job of presenting four larger-than-life men in a moment of fairly—in some ways—low-stakes moment in their lives. Of them just spending time with each other. And it presents them as, like, I don't know. Like fully-formed, three-dimensional men with vulnerabilities. But also strong passions. And I thought it was really great and the performances are incredible and specifically, Leslie Odom, Jr. rerecord—who plays Sam Cooke in the movie—he recorded a bunch of Sam Cooke songs with him doing the vocals and the play a bunch of them in the movie and it's—they're incredible! So check it out.

01:40:03 Elliott Host

I would like to recommend a documentary movie. That's a movie about a real thing that actually happened, featuring real footage of the thing as it happened! And this is a movie from 1968 that was released in Blu-ray last year and it's called *The Queen*. And it's a

documentary about the 1967 Miss All-America Camp Beauty Contest and follows the MC of the competition and also a number of the different competitors as they prepare for it. And then acts in some ways just as like a... like, you are there in this moment experiencing the 1967 Miss All-America Camp Beauty Contest, a early drag contest at a time when there was next-to-no representation of that kind of lifestyle or interest in mainstream media? And it was really interesting to me to see people... living in that time and without a lot of what we take for granted nowadays. In terms of just even awareness of different types of people. And there's a bunch of interesting characters in it. I mean, they're real people. You know what I mean by characters. And it's just something that... helped me to... I don't know. Understand certain aspects of the draw of drag that I didn't fully understand before. And so I thought it was really good. It's called *The Queen* and it's on Blu-ray!

01:41:27 Arnie Guest

I, unfortunately, haven't had a—I've been a little too busy to watch that many movies. But I will recommend the first fifteen minutes of *The January Man*. Don't watch any more than the first fifteen minutes—

[Elliott laughs.]

—because it's not—it won't get any better. But the first fifteen minutes are pretty entertaining and crazy and Rod Steiger and Danny Aiello have a scene where they really both go—really go at it. And at some point you have to remind yourself, "This is a comedy. But these guys are just screaming at each other."

[Elliott laughs.]

01:41:57 Dan Host

Did we talk about the John Patrick Shanley wrote *The January Man* when we did our *Wild Mountain Thyme* episode?

01:42:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Elliott:** I don't think it came up when we did *Wild Mountain Thyme*. No.

**Stuart:** I don't think we touched on it.

**Dan:** That's very strange. [Laughs.]

01:42:10 Dan Host

Okay! Well the first fifteen minutes. That's—y'know, that's a great recommendation for our listeners who maybe have a more packed schedule—

[Stuart laughs.]

—than the other ones, y'know? Just fit it in.

01:42:20 Elliott Host

And again, you're saying not to watch it in fifteen-minute bites, but just to watch the first fifteen minutes and then turn it right off.

01:42:26 Arnie Guest

Exactly. Oh yes.

01:42:27 Elliott Host

Okay.

01:42:29 Stuart Host

Yup. Put the tape back in the box. Drive immediately to your local Blockbuster and slip it in the return slot.

01:42:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Arnie:** I suppose—take a moment to look at the poster of *The January Man*.

**Elliott:** You're gonna—you want— [Laughs.]

01:42:38 Arnie Guest Which is the whole reason I ever even bothered to watch it because the poster was somehow burned in my mind from childhood.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:42:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk And it was January and I was like, “I guess I’ll watch this movie finally?”

01:42:52 Stuart Host **Elliott:** But it is January Man Month.

01:42:53 Arnie Guest **Stuart:** That’s true. Can you describe that poster for me, Arnie? It’s Kevin Kline, right?

01:43:02 Dan Host Kevin Kline. He’s got kind of floppy hair. He’s standing in a doorway holding—he’s got kinda like a long—like a longer trench coat. He’s holding a—

01:43:03 Arnie Guest Like an overcoat, yeah.

01:43:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk He’s holding up a badge. I believe...  
**Dan:** Mary Stuart Masterson.

01:43:10 Arnie Guest **Arnie:** Mary Stuart Mast—yeah. She’s standing behind him.

01:43:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Or, wait! Mary Elizabeth—

01:43:14 Dan Host **Elliott:** No, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. Yeah. Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. I—god. The three-named Marys of the ‘80s. No. But yes. You’re right. Mastrantonio. Sorry.

01:43:23 Arnie Guest She’s kinda just peeking around—it’s like he’s basically like talking to someone in the doorway.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:43:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk It’s not even that—there’s not even that much—  
**Arnie:** It just works!

**Stuart:** And [inaudible].

01:43:32 Stuart Host **Elliott:** You should—you should—

01:43:34 Elliott Host It asks more questions than it answers, really. I mean, you should mention—did you mention that the door has been forced down? The door is no longer connected to the doorway. I’m looking at it now. And is lying on the floor at Kevin Kline’s feet almost as if—through the sheer force of the zaniness of the film—he has knocked the door down.

01:43:48 Arnie Guest It’s also worth mentioning that nothing even vaguely resembling this happens at any point in the movie.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:43:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Can I ask something about the—can—

01:44:01 Dan Host **Stuart:** It’s not like a French door-slamming comedy, right? I would like to ask—yeah. About the tone of *The January Man*? Because like, I—is it comedic? ‘Cause I remember as a kid... I was kinda interested in seeing it ‘cause I liked Kevin Kline. Y’know. And this was around the time maybe that I would’ve been like, “Oh, he’s so funny in *A Fish Called Wanda* and a few other things.” And it looked wacky. But then I think I tried to watch it and it was a pretty straight... cop film? Like, what is the tone?

01:44:30 Arnie Guest That's the problem! I mean, I think... from what I can tell, the main reason it probably flopped at the time—besides just being bad—was that the tone was so weird? I think—I mean, it being... Shanley, like, he was trying something just like *Joe Versus the Volcano*, also is tonally a little strange? But it is—it's like—it's trying—

01:44:53 Stuart Host And it hit theaters in March, too—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—and people were like, “Why would I watch *January Man* in March?”

01:44:58 Arnie Guest Exactly!

01:44:59 Elliott Host Yeah. I mean, reading the first line of Roger Ebert's contemporary review, “*The January Man* is worth study as a film that fails to find its tone.” So I think that's the issue.

01:45:08 Arnie Guest It's so—I mean the parts that are serious—this is a movie about a serial killer that's killing women, and... but it's also like a comedy and every time you see Danny Aiello and Rod Steiger being like, “Did you see that dead woman and [*inaudible*] tell her parents!” And then it's like—and then it's like, “Let's go look at a rumpiled detective trying to figure this out. And sort of fall in love with a woman that's too young for him.”

01:45:39 Dan Host Mm. Mm-kay.

01:45:42 Elliott Host It's available on Prime! If you have Amazon Prime, you can watch it for free.

01:45:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah. The first fifteen minutes.

**Stuart:** Yeah. If you've already watched *Virtuosity* and *Johnny Mnemonic*.

01:45:49 Dan Host Which—I watched both of those this last year!

[Multiple people laugh.]

Along with *Lawnmower Man*. I went on a real kick of like, dumb...  
[Laughs.] Dumb... '90s...

01:45:58 Stuart Host You were really scared of the internet for a little bit.

01:46:00 Dan Host Yeah.

[Elliott laughs.]

Okay. Well anyway. [Laughs.] Arnie, thank you so much for being here. Is there anything you wanna plug here at the end?

01:46:09 Arnie Guest Uh, sure! Check out my podcast, *Hello from the Magic Tavern*. A totally-improvised chat show in a fantasy world. And—

01:46:17 Stuart Host It's great. It's great.

01:46:18 Arnie Promo Oh, thank you! And if you're looking for games to play with your friends, either in person someday or via Zoom or something like that, the Jackbox Party Packs! I think three is a really good collection? They're all good. Three is a good collection and the most recent one, seven, I think is one of the better ones we've done.

01:46:40 Dan Host Nice. They're very fun. I—yeah. I have come to like games more over the years knowing Stuart and our mutual friend John, but my favorite type of game still remains the sort of social party game and

			these are some of the most fun—funniest ones you could do, I think.
01:46:58	Stuart	Host	Uh-huh. Yeah. Your favorite one's called "Leisure Suit Larry," right?
01:47:00	Dan	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Yup. "In the Land of the Lounge Lizards."
01:47:03	Elliott	Host	Guys? Guys? I know this is kind of off topic, but I will say that Amazon Prime does inform me that people who watch <i>January Man</i> also watched <i>Wagons East</i> , starring John Candy and Richard Lewis, so.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
01:47:16	Arnie	Guest	If you liked <i>Wagons East</i> , maybe you'll like <i>January Man</i> !
01:47:19	Dan	Host	That sounds about right. Well on that note, thanks to our network, Maximum Fun. Go to <a href="http://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> for a lot of other great shows. Tweet about our show. Review it. Let people know all the stuff that we always ask for. Thank you for doing it all lo these many years for us. Helping us grow an audience. But until next time, I've been Dan McCoy.
01:47:40	Stuart	Host	I'm Stuart Wellington!
01:47:41	Elliott	Host	I'm Elliott Kalan!
01:47:42	Arnie	Guest	And I'm Arnie Niekamp, reminding you that teenage rattlesnakes are the most dangerous kind.
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
01:47:48	Stuart	Host	Oh no!
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
01:47:51	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
01:48:02	Stuart	Host	Oh, Elliott, please—can you just do a whole bunch of bullshit scating before—so I can't introduce him?
01:48:09	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> And then finally— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<b>Elliott:</b> Already ahead—way ahead of you. Way ahead of you.
			<i>[Music ends.]</i>
01:48:17	Elliott	Host	A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:48:19	Elliott	Host	<a href="http://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> .
01:48:20	Elliott	Host	Comedy and culture.
01:48:22	Elliott	Host	Artist owned—
01:48:24	Elliott	Host	—Audience supported.